



TELEVISION

Sex watershed should be 10pm

News, page 9



POLITICS

Valerie Grove meets Alan Clark

Modern Times, page 18



FILMS

Sneakers: a new hit for Robert Redford

Section 2, page 39

BOOKS
ON
THURSDAY
Pages 36-37

THE TIMES

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 1992

No. 64,488

45p

Joy, dismay and warnings greet Synod vote for women priests

■ Grave warnings that the Church of England was on the brink of schism, greeted the General Synod vote allowing the ordination of women. Bishops will now decide how to deal with opposing clergy

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

BY A majority of five votes, the Church of England yesterday ended 17 years of debate with a decision to ordain women priests. The result was greeted with jubilation by women campaigners and their supporters but with dismay by traditionalists and the Vatican.

As the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, announced the result in the debating chamber of Church House, Westminster, Synod members remained silent as he had asked, apart from one woman who could not contain a shout of joy.

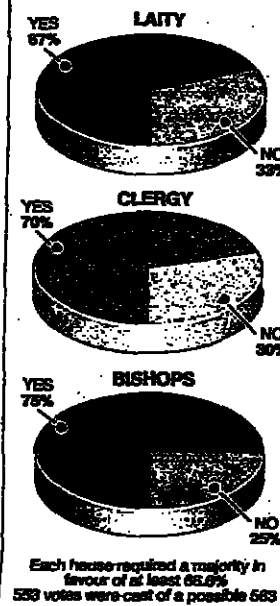
An atmosphere of almost stunned disbelief greeted the result, mixed with relief that the years of argument and quarrels were over. These initial reactions were soon followed by warnings that the church was on the verge of schism.

Outside in Dean's Yard behind Westminster Abbey, women and men, wept, hugged and kissed each other. Some issued invitations to their future ordinations.

It had been clear since a similar debate last July that the result would depend on a handful of lay members, but none had guessed it would be so close. A two-thirds majority was needed in all three houses of bishops, clergy and laity.

In the House of Laity, 169 (67.3 per cent) voted in favour and 82 against; this was five more than the required majority and a 6 per cent swing from July. If two lay members had voted the other way, the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure would have been lost.

THE CLOSE VOTE FOR WOMEN



Of the clergy, 176 (70.4 per cent) were in favour and 74 against. Ten clergy needed to vote the other way for it to fail. Of the bishops, 13 were against and 39 in favour.

The Vatican said that the vote was a "new and grave obstacle" to relations between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church.

After the debate, Dr Carey said that his commitment to ultimate, visible unity between the Church of England and the Catholic Church was not affected. He said this was a process he had been committed to for many years and he would continue to work for unity. He said he would write to the Pope immediately to convey this.

In a joint statement, Dr Carey and the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said: "While for many this result is a source of joy and relief, to others it will bring anguish." They added: "What binds us together in God's love as a church is vastly more important than a disagreement about women's ordination."

The two archbishops called for a period of reflection and prayer and urged all members to abide by the decision. "Hasty or ill-considered action would, in our view, be inappropriate and serve no good purpose."



Jubilation: supporters of ordination welcome the vote as it is relayed to the crowds outside Church House

The House of Bishops will decide in January how to meet the needs of those opposed to women priests.

The first women could not be ordained until July 1994. The legislation goes from the General Synod to Parliament in June. If successful there it goes forward for royal assent in July or August next year. It then awaits public declaration in the Synod in July 1994, after which their ordination becomes legally possible.

Cathy Milford, moderator of the Movement for the Ordination of Women (Mow), which has led the campaign for women priests, is celebrating "the beginning of the end of Mow" but added: "We shall keep going until we have the Queen's consent."

Emma Nicholson MP, vice-moderator of Mow, forecast a 95 per cent majority in the Commons.

Signs of rift, page 5
Leading article, page 21
Books, page 36

Tories face Iraq arms challenge

By JILL SHERMAN AND SHEILA GUNN

JOHN Major was under pressure yesterday to explain his part in the Iraqi arms affair, with opposition parties accusing the government of helping to provide Iraq with weapons later used in the Gulf war.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, asked the prime minister about his knowledge of the build-up of arms in Iraq, John Smith, the Labour leader, wanted to know about government involvement in "supplying equipment to Iraq to be used against British personnel".

Mr Ashdown said an assurance that Mr Major had given him in 1990 — that ministers were not breaching an arms embargo — was now in doubt because of documents which had come to light in the Matrix Churchill trial.

Today a second trial involving alleged exports of arms-making equipment to Iraq is likely to be dropped. Customs and Excise officials are expected to present no evidence in the case against Keith Bailey, chief executive of BSA Tools of Birmingham.

In an interview with The Times today Alan Clark, the former trade minister, is unrepentant about his actions. He also denies resigning from the Commons because of the prospect of the Matrix Churchill trial.

Labour claims, page 2
Clark interview, page 18

Major wins support from Kohl

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN Major yesterday got Anglo-German relations back on course, winning vital endorsement from Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, for the government's delay in ratifying the Maastricht treaty. The two leaders also found common ground on averting a transatlantic trade war, and on the future of the troubled European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) project.

The prime minister won a ringing declaration from Herr Kohl during their one-day summit at Ditchley Park in Oxfordshire that a Gatt trade agreement was essential. The German leader said he would not put pressure on France, but he made it clear that the Europeans would have to make further compromises.

Mr Major succeeded in winning an eleventh-hour reprieve for the EFA. A study by the participating countries — Britain, Germany, Spain and Italy — found that costs could be cut substantially. "We haven't reached agreement yet but discussions between our defence ministers will continue," Mr Major said.

Herr Kohl, whose government had been eager to pull out from the project altogether, said that Germany now wanted to find a common European solution.

German ally, page 16
British U-turn, page 16
Letters, page 21

Lamont swings three-year axe at pay of public servants

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

A THREE-YEAR public sector pay squeeze of unprecedented ferocity will be signalled by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, in his Autumn Statement to the Commons today.

The cutbacks to be announced by Mr Lamont, covering the period up to 1996 and the probable date of the next election, will be so severe that many of the country's five million public servants will be earning less in real terms at the end of the clampdown than they do today.

The Chancellor will seek to dispel the gloom by also announcing measures designed to stimulate economic recovery. He is expected to offer help to industry and the building trade, and Tory MPs are looking for an interest rate cut of at least 1 per cent.

Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, will also set out today benefit rates for next year amid speculation that he



Lamont: aid to industry and building trade

is planning some increases below the rate of inflation. The Labour leadership's suspicions about the uprating statement were fuelled last night when it learned that Mr Lilley would not be able to deliver it until the routine weekly statement on Commons business had been given. One Labour

MP said: "They are trying to keep it off the early evening news bulletins."

In a sign of the importance of the statement for the economy and a revival in the government's fortunes after the buffeting of the past two months, it was disclosed yesterday that Mr Lamont will speak for up to 45 minutes, roughly twice the length of a normal statement.

Many Conservative MPs are apprehensive about the public-sector pay squeeze and fear that the government will be dragged into protracted disputes with key groups of workers commanding popular support such as nurses, doctors and teachers. They believe that Mr Lamont and his cabinet colleagues face a

Continued on page 2 col 6
Times Guide, page 13
Lamont's dilemma, page 20
Leading article
and Letters, page 21

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Cook accuses ministers of cover-up over defence exports to Baghdad

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS suppressed information which showed that Britain had been supplying Iraq with hundreds of millions of pounds of defence equipment right up to the invasion of Kuwait in August, 1990, Labour claimed yesterday.

Robin Cook, the shadow trade and industry secretary, challenged Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, over his claims that he had no alternative but to sign the certificates claiming public immunity which were requested by the defence in the Matrix Churchill trial.

Mr Cook also released a 1990 Ministry of Defence briefing document which he claimed showed that ministers had been warned of the sensitivity of Britain's contribution to the arms build-up in Iraq. The document gives the ministry's own assessment of how Britain had assisted in the build-up, and calls for a tightening of the embargo.

Mr Cook said he had been unable to find any precedent for claiming immunity in a criminal case. All previous known claims of public interest immunity were made in civil cases, not criminal cases, he said. He cited a statement made by Lord Kilmuir, then Lord Chancellor, in June 1956, and repeated by Lord Reid in 1968, that "in the case of criminal proceedings Crown privilege should not be claimed".

"Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke and Malcolm Rifkind cannot now get away with claiming they had no alternative but to sign the certificates," he said. Earlier yesterday Mr Heseltine insisted that he had signed the certificate — which stops official papers being used in court — because he was told it was his duty. He also claimed that he had raised his fears about signing the certificate with Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general. "I decided to consult the attorney-general as to whether I had to sign this document because I was very concerned about the consequences if I signed it that might prevent the relevant documents finding their way into court," Mr Heseltine said on BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

"The attorney-general advised me that it was my duty, not my discretion, my duty, to sign a certificate. Before I signed, I had asked whether this precluded, or would have the effect of precluding, these documents finding their way into court and I didn't sign until I was satisfied it would not have that effect."

Mr Cook said Mr Heseltine and his colleagues knew perfectly well that they were signing "The main certificate, from Tristan Garel-Jones, which Mr Heseltine had read, makes it clear that ministers did not intend the documents to be used in court. This paper says: 'The purpose of this certificate is to explain to the court why, for reasons of public interest, such documents should not be disclosed.' The other signatories were Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary. Mr Cook said: "Why did ministers conspire to conceal



United front: Mr Clarke, left, Mr Heseltine and Mr Rifkind yesterday, after claims that they conspired to suppress papers about exports to Iraq

these documents? The answer is simple. They knew they would blow the lid on the hundreds of millions of pounds of defence equipment which ministers had allowed to go to a brutal and unstable regime in Iraq."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, has written to the prime minister asking if he knew that significant amounts of defence equipment had been sold to Iraq between 1987 and 1990, in spite of assurances that the embargo guidelines were being observed.

Mr Ashdown refers to a letter from Mr Major on December 6, 1990, following Mr Ashdown's concerns about a possible breach of the embargo. "You assured me that these guidelines which 'prohibited the export to Iraq or Iran of lethal equipment or of any other defence equipment', had been observed by ministers since October 1985." Documents which had since come to light showed that substantial amounts of equipment were exported from Britain to Iraq in each of the four years before the prime minister's letter.

"There can be no question but that ministers must have been aware that this equipment was for defence uses," Mr Ashdown writes. If this was correct the prime minister personally had an urgent and personal question to answer, he said. "When you gave me the undertaking of December 6, 1990, were you aware of the fact that the undertaking appears to have been so clearly breached in each of the four preceding years?"

Government officials were last night said to be "trawling through the files" to enable Mr Major to answer Mr Ashdown's charges.



On the attack: Robin Cook prepares papers in support of his claim of a cover-up

What defence document says

THE defence ministry document on how Britain was helping Iraq to build up arms, given to the press by Robin Cook yesterday, was reclassified from "unclassified" to "restricted" on December 3, 1990, weeks before the Allied forces started bombing Baghdad (Jill Sherman writes).

This was four days after the prime minister received a letter from Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, concerning a possible breach of the arms embargo agreed in 1985 and the day before Mr Major's reply. The document, headed *British Assistance to the Emerging Iraqi Arms Industry*, was prepared by a defence ministry working group earlier in 1990, before Kuwait was invaded. It gave a detailed assessment of Britain's contribution to the arms build-up in Iraq and called for a tightening of the embargo. It also warned of the consequences of a leak to the press concerning continued defence equipment sales to Iraq. The document recognised, however, that political and economic factors mitigated against stronger controls.

The aim of this paper is to draw the attention of the minister to the way in which 'UK Ltd' is helping Iraq often unwillingly, but sometimes not, to set up a major indigenous arms industry," the document said. Examples included a national electronics manufacturing complex, foundries designed to produce steel for gun barrels and tank parts, machinery to make gun barrels and shells, and production lines for parachutes and thermal batteries. Together they represented a significant enhancement of Iraq's ability to manufacture its own arms.

Palumbo fights cuts

By RAY CLANCY

A CUT in the arts budget would be a foolish move by the government at a time of growing awareness of talent on a European scale, Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, said last night on the eve of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

Speaking in Edinburgh he said that the British government earned far more from the arts through tourism and taxation than it spends directly on encouraging the arts. The arts and associated businesses were worth £13 billion a year, of which £6 billion contributed directly to the balance of payments, £2 billion more

than the motor industry. "To restrict development of the arts and their success and the impact upon national life, at this time of all times, would be foolish and purblind. I profoundly hope that vision and good sense will overcome the call of the expedient," Lord Palumbo said.

He added that the appointment of a cabinet minister responsible for the arts showed how seriously the government viewed the area. "The arts are no longer simply the optional or recreational choice of the privileged or educated, they are seen as a vital resource to be available for everyone."

Giving the Lux Europa lecture, one of a series organised by Lothian Regional Council to celebrate Edinburgh's choice as a venue for the forthcoming European summit, Lord Palumbo also called on the private sector to continue its generosity with funding. "Every encouragement is needed, both fiscal and by government example, to give substance to the new enthusiasm for the arts in this country. We need the support of all our European partners in exploiting the arts and treating the artist as the most important individual in our midst," he said.

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly reported yesterday that Judge Smedley, presiding in the Matrix Churchill trial, had, after the hearing ended, examined 500 pages of confidential information and released them to the defence. In fact, the only occasion on which the judge read the papers referred to in the report was before the trial, in order to determine whether or not to uphold the claim to public interest immunity made by the various Secretaries of State in relation to documents in their possession. We apologise for the error.

Lamont swings three-year pay axe

Continued from page 1
tough task in selling the measure to the country.

The Chancellor will announce a virtual pay freeze for the coming year. MPs expect any increases will be pegged to no more than 1.5 per cent and that some or all of this money will have to come from efficiency savings and performance-related pay.

More alarmingly for public servants, the squeeze will be maintained for the next two years. Mr Lamont will disclose new "control totals" for public spending, lopping about £16 billion off previous planned expenditure for 1994/95 and 1995/96.

Growth in spending after allowing for inflation will be little more than 1 per cent, leaving almost no scope for real salary increases over those years without politically unthinkable cuts in services.

Tory MPs, who have been attending meetings with Treasury ministers in the run-up to the statement, said yesterday that Mr Lamont would be determined to avoid a "bounce back" in public sector pay levels after the virtual freeze next year. But others doubted whether the government will keep its nerve if confronted by unions demanding public sympathy.

In his statement, the Chancellor will reaffirm his intention of reducing the share of national output taken by public spending in the medium term. But the unforeseen severity of the recession and the prospect of only a sluggish recovery in economic growth have made this goal much harder to achieve. Slashing spending in later years to cash increases of only about 3 per cent, compared with at least 6 per cent next year, is the only way Mr Lamont can square the circle.

Figures on the transitional relief scheme for the introduction of the council tax in April will also be given today. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, is thought to have secured about £400 million to cushion the changeover from the poll tax, much less than he was seeking.

With many Tory MPs worried about the impact on householders in London and the Southeast, the environment department sought to give some reassurance last night by emphasising a range of assistance.

It pointed out that two in three homes in England were in the lower council tax bands A-C and only 9 per cent of properties were in the top three bands F-H. Of the 20 million households in England, 6 million would qualify for a single person's discount of 25 per cent. Three million people on income support and 600,000 students would pay nothing.

Times Guide, page 13
Lamont's dilemma, page 20
Leading article, page 21
Leading article, page 21

Ireland's fog drifts across to befuddle stranded Martian

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

If a Martian were to have wandered into the Strangers' Gallery for yesterday's statement on the postponement of talks in Northern Ireland, he would have been utterly baffled.

Fluency in English would have been no use. A detailed biography of every member speaking would have shed no light. Even a careful reading of Irish history would not have unlocked for him the meaning of the exchanges. The whole thing was completely Irish.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, read a long and painstaking statement. He spoke of "Strands" — the word appearing first as "strand", then as "Strand". He never explained what a strand was but, whatever it was, there were at least three of them, perhaps more.

Our Martian friend, having drawn a blank on the detail, might have said to himself: "Well, regardless of exactly what it was Sir Patrick was aiming for, is he succeeding? Have the talks got anywhere?"

But again the Martian is confounded. "We have not yet succeeded in the ambitious task of securing an overall settlement," Mayhew said. Ah, failure. But perhaps they got part of the way? "Nothing will be finally agreed in any strand until everything is agreed in the Talks as a whole..." so the question of partial settlement did not arise.

So no progress? "None-theless, the Talks have seen substantive and detailed engagement on issues of the first importance." Ah, hopeful signs, then? "Madam Speaker, the whole House, although doubtless disappointed..." Oh.

And then, finally: "We have a duty not to lose patience, with what is a deeply historic problem, not to give way to exasperation, not to recriminate."

This was the signal for the recriminations to begin. As Labour's spokesman Kevin McNamara spoke of the Anglo-Irish agreement there were cries of "Shame! Disgraceful!" from the Ulster Unionists. Our Martian began to get a sense of ill-feeling, of impasse...

Until up jumped Jim Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionists. "We have moved forward," he said. "Six months in the history of Ireland is but an evening gone." Patrick Mayhew added, cheerily. Whereupon Ian Paisley rose.

Paisley rose.

Dr Paisley always sits beside Peter Robinson (Belfast E). Between them they make up two thirds of his Democratic Unionist party. Paisley is a big, booming, beefy man, often apoplectic. Robinson is a thin, pale fellow in glasses, with an expressionless stare and a strangely limp look.

It has been rumoured that Paisley is a ventriloquist and Robinson his dummy, and it is easy to imagine that if Paisley moved away, Robinson might flop onto the bench into a heap of lifeless rubber. But my own theory is that this is an elaborate double bluff, and that it is Robinson who is the ventriloquist. I could not see his right arm yesterday, but his thin lips seemed to be twitching as Paisley bellowed, and I fancied that one tweak from those hidden, bony fingers and Paisley's whole great body would jerk into action, railing and gesticulating against Popish plots.

Robinson and Paisley gave our Martian a strong impression that all was not well. "Illegal, immoral, criminal" was Paisley's description of the Irish position; then Ken Maginnis (UUP) said it was not the time for recrimination and went on to accuse the Labour party of "contradictory gobbledegook" and the Irish of a lack of goodwill. Heaven help us when the time for recrimination comes.

At this point, an Englishman blundered in. Barry Porter (C, Wirral S), his eyes unaccustomed to the Celtic fog, wondered if "failure" was the word for what had happened. This seemed to unite Irishmen of all persuasions. Heads shook pityingly. Poor fellow: how little he understood.

Sir Patrick gave a tolerant smile and declined to engage with such language. Parties to these talks call each other illegal, immoral and criminal. One participant might find another utterly devoid of goodwill. Indeed, the talks might have broken down. But never speak of failure! And never, never speak of success.

Onward they go as evening falls, waving their arms and their adjutives. One by one the English MPs had slid from the chamber. So has our Martian. Mars is a long way from Ireland, but not as far as England.

Cyanide link to arms man's desert death

Police in San Diego yesterday said that the death of Ian Spiro, a suspected British spy and arms dealer, was probably suicide caused by cyanide, traces of which were found in his car in the southern California desert. San Diego sheriff's department said it remained sceptical about reports in British newspapers that Mr Spiro, 46, and his wife and three children had been killed by a Middle East hit squad.

The death is thought to have been the result of severe cash troubles, which had worsened since he moved to California 18 months ago. His flat in London had been repossessed, and his house in the south of France was understood to be mortgaged.

Osman case reviewed

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, has asked the High Court to end the battle of Britain's longest-serving unconvicted prisoner to avoid extradition to Hong Kong by issuing writs of habeas corpus. Lorrain Osman, right, a banker aged 60, was committed in 1987 to await extradition on 39 charges of theft, corruption and conspiracy to defraud. The judges have reserved judgment.



BBC cuts more jobs

The BBC, which only two months ago announced 1,250 job cuts, is to shed another 114 employees in London. In preparation for the introduction next April of "producer choice," internal market reforms which will force resource units to compete on price and quality with commercial rivals, the BBC is axing 60 jobs in the scenic services department, which covers design and props, 29 in make-up, and 25 in visual effects. More job losses are expected to be announced today in the studios department.

Editor leaves People

Bill Hagerty has "vacated the editorship" of *The People*, Mirror Group Newspapers announced yesterday. No reason was given for his resignation, which comes three weeks after the controversial appointment of David Montgomery as MGN chief executive. A statement said his successor would be announced "very shortly".

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Justice has been done, say parents of woman whose throat was cut on forest walk

Jail term increased on lover who killed soldier's wife

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER woman soldier who killed the wife of her army officer lover in a knife attack had her sentence for manslaughter increased from five to nine years yesterday.

Susan Christie, 24, of Lisburn, co. Down, sat impassively in the dock flanked by two woman prison officers as Sir Brian Hutton, the Lord Chief Justice, announced the majority decision at the Court of Appeal in Belfast.

Christie, a former Greenfinch in the Ulster Defence Regiment, was originally sentenced in June to five years after a jury at Downpatrick Crown Court accepted her plea of diminished responsibility in the killing of Penny McAllister, 24. Christie cut her throat with a sharpened boning knife during a walk

through an isolated wood in co. Down in March 1987.

Mrs McAllister's family, who had originally condemned what they considered a shockingly lenient sentence, welcomed the court's decision to uphold the appeal taken by the attorney-general and to impose one of the longest sentences handed down in a case of this kind. With remission Christie will serve four and a half years in prison.

Desmond Squires, Mrs McAllister's father, the head teacher of a primary school in West Sussex, said that he and his wife could begin to rebuild their lives. "We feel that some justice has occurred now which we didn't feel before," he said.

Mrs Squires said of Christie: "I have never been vindictive

in my life but I wish a lot of evil to her. It's as if a disciple of the devil has come and taken some of the best things away from the world."

Sir Brian, explaining his decision, underlined what he described as the "very considerable residual responsibility" that Christie must bear for her crime. There was also the "justifiable concern of society that the courts should uphold and emphasise the sanctity of human life."

It was significant that in spite of suffering acute stress and depression, Christie had not sought psychiatric help before the killing. She had carefully planned Mrs McAllister's death and had made a sustained effort to evade detection by telling police that she and her victim had been attacked by a man who had tried to rape her.

These circumstances made the element of responsibility in her case greater than in any of the reported cases of this kind, Sir Brian said. "I am of the opinion that the range of sentence should be seven to ten years. A sentence below that could not reasonably be considered appropriate."

He said that notwithstanding Christie's previous unblemished record, a ten-year sentence would be appropriate. That sentence should be reduced by a year after taking into account the "strain and burden" of the second hearing.

Lord Justice Murray agreed with Sir Brian. He said that the killing was clearly not the

result of a sudden explosion of uncontrollable emotion. Lord Justice MacDermott, however, said that seven years was about the right sentence and, when mitigating factors were taken into account, Lord Justice Kelly, the trial judge, had been right to impose five years.

The trial in June was told how Christie met Mrs McAllister's husband Duncan, a captain in the Royal Corps of Signals, at a diving club that he organised. Unbeknown to Mrs McAllister, a passionate affair began in June 1990 and continued for just under a year until her death the following July. At all times, Captain McAllister made clear that he would not leave his wife, yet Christie became increasingly obsessed with him, eventually deciding that the only way she could have him for herself was by killing her rival for his affections.

Captain McAllister is now based with the army in Germany. Yesterday, Mr Squires said he was still in touch with his son-in-law and would continue to support him. He described him as "a victim of something stupid and terrible" and added: "He has been condemned himself to a life sentence of a kind which Susan Christie can't begin to understand even with a possible five years to spend in prison."



Ill-fated couple: Penny and Duncan McAllister on their wedding day

Appeal is part of curb on leniency

THE appeal that resulted yesterday in a near-doubling of Susan Christie's sentence for manslaughter to nine years is the latest and most serious sentence to be challenged by the attorney-general (Frances Gibb writes).

His powers to refer over-lenient sentences, which apply only to indictable offences which he considers "unduly" lenient, came into force in 1989. Since then he has enjoyed a high success rate, achieving higher sentences in 81 per cent of referred cases.

The attorney-general has applied for leave to refer a total of 102 offenders, including nine to the Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland. Leave must be lodged within 28 days.

Of those, 14 were withdrawn after further evidence came to light and 19 are in the pipeline: three will come up in London next week. These involve two cases of death by reckless driving (the men each received 21 months), two cases of robbery, one with a shotgun (the men received three and four years) and a wounding in which the man received a deferred sentence.

Among some of the increased sentences were two years imposed in January 1990 on a man who raped his former girl friend, more than doubled to 4½ years, and a case in the same month of a raider who terrified a sub-post office assistant with a baseball bat, whose 2½-year sentence was increased to five years.



Obsessed lover: former soldier Susan Christie

Girl of 11 wins right to leave her parents

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL aged 11 has become the youngest child in Britain to be granted a long-term rather than a temporary order that effectively divorces her from her parents.

In the latest in a spate of child-promoted actions, the girl from Devon has won a residence order from a judge at Torquay County Court enabling her to live with her grandparents.

In previous actions which have so far come to light, children have succeeded in obtaining temporary orders. However in this case, the girl, who cannot be named, has succeeded in obtaining a long-term order.

The girl apparently contacted a solicitor, who obtained legal aid for her, because her parents are separated and she does not like her stepfather. Her mother contested the application.

The publicity prompted by the first case to come to light, that of a 14-year-old girl who is now a ward of court with a decision pending on whether she may leave her parents and live with her boyfriend's family, is likely to result in a number of similar cases.

An 11-year-old Leeds girl won a temporary residence order to live with her former foster parents last week. But a full hearing at which the mother will contest the

order has yet to take place. There has also been a case, which has just come to light, in which a 15-year-old girl from Birmingham is believed to have won an order enabling her to live with her grandparents.

The actions have come about as a result of the Children Act of 1989, which has been in force for just over a year. The act enables children, with the leave of the court, to apply for orders on a range of issues affecting their lives.

They can instruct solicitors and obtain legal aid. Judges must be satisfied they are of sufficient age and understanding. The act enables a child to leave his or her parents, but they are still responsible for the child.

The Devon girl's solicitor, Philip Kidd, said yesterday: "This girl was the prime mover in this. She has shown great determination, and was not afraid to go before a county court judge."

He predicted that as more children become aware of the provisions of the act, the number of cases will rise. "The wishes of children are very important," he said. There is no age limit. Some girls of 11, he added, were "extremely grown up. They are mature and able to understand the effects of what they are saying."

Jury told of Guppy plea to friend

EARL Spencer's best man asked a friend to make a false sworn statement to cover up a £1.8 million insurance swindle, a jury was told yesterday.

Ishan Dutta said. Darius Guppy, best man to the Princess of Wales's brother at his wedding three years ago, phoned him in Bombay after a civil action was launched against him to recover the money. Mr Guppy, a jewel merchant, and Benedict Marsh, his business associate, are alleged to have defrauded Lloyd's of London after a staged robbery in New York.

Dutta, who was jailed for 18 months for fraud and false accounting earlier this year, told Snaresbrook Crown Court that Mr Guppy asked him to pose as the owner of an Indian company. "He explained to me that he had some civil suit launched against him connected with the robbery," Dutta said. "He wished to make it clear for the purposes of this case that there had in fact been a genuine company in Bombay."

The civil action was launched to try to recover the insurance pay-out after Lloyd's became suspicious.

Mr Guppy, of Notting Hill, west London, and Mr Marsh, of Southwark, southeast London, both aged 28 and former directors of Inca Gemstones, deny conspiracy to defraud, steal and commit false accounting.

The trial continues today.

Fleming's inspiration for Q dies at home aged 89

By PETER VICTOR

THE inspiration for Q, James Bond's world-weary supplier of impressive but improbable gadgetry, has died at his home in the West Country.

Charles Fraser-Smith, 89, who served in the security forces at the same time as Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond novels, devised specialist equipment during the second world war for special agents and British prisoners escaping from occupied territory.

When Mr Fleming left the services to become an author, he modelled Q—the inventor of sophisticated spying equipment and weapons that were taken for granted by 007—on Mr Fraser-Smith.

A familiar figure in the West Country, Mr Fraser-Smith wrote a series of books explaining his work inventing gadgets and how he had become involved in the work of the secret service. He sent compasses hidden in the centre of specially designed golf balls to prisoners of war. He also arranged for the sharpest possible metal saws to be sewn

into regulation issue military shoelaces.

It was Mr Fraser-Smith, also, who arranged for aircrews to fly carrying briar pipes lined with asbestos, which allowed detailed maps to be concealed in the bowls. If they were shot down the airmen could use the maps to find their way home. Some agents even carried useful items in their false teeth.

He was employed after the outbreak of war at the Ministry of Supply in Totter Street, London, next to MI6's home in Minimax House. His job was so secret that neither his secretary nor his boss knew what he was doing.

He was frequently asked to provide authentic clothing and props for agents working in enemy-occupied territory. One of his more unusual requests was to provide a trunk capable of preserving a body in dry ice. The body was later dropped into the ocean bearing false papers used to dupe the German military.

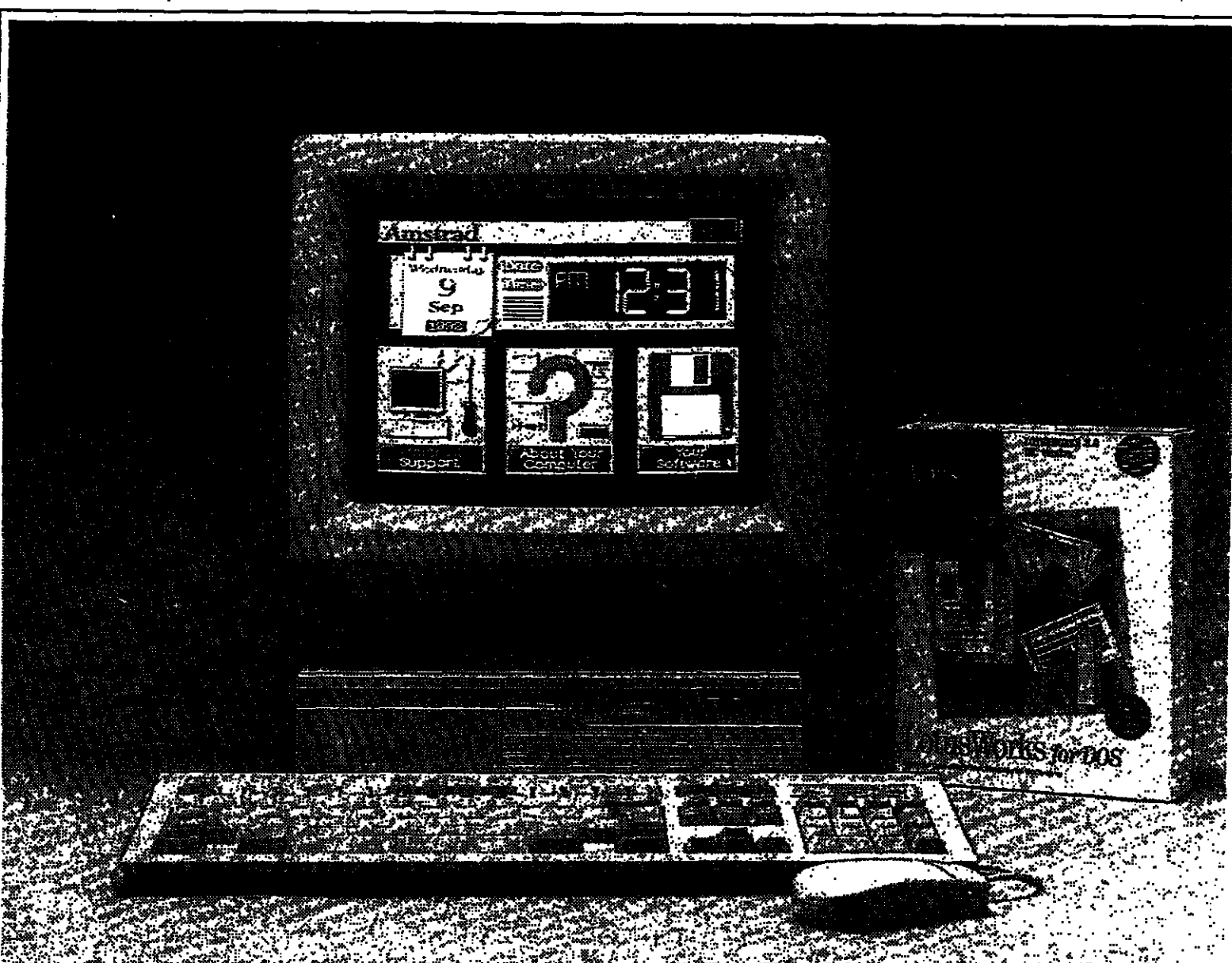
Mr Fraser-Smith was mod-

est about his work, and said of his experiences in the world of espionage: "Secrecy, as I soon learnt, depended on ignorance. The less anyone knew the better." Some of his work was so secret that he was never to discuss it. His golf balls, however, were featured in the Bond adventure *Diamonds are Forever*.

His work remains the subject of much fascination, and a display of his gadgets has been on view in recent years at the Exmoor Steam Railway, a tourist attraction in Bratton Fleming, near the inventor's home in north Devon.

"We used to stock his books, and Mr Fraser-Smith would come up every week in the summer," June Stirling, proprietor of the railway, said. "He was always delighted to explain to visitors the workings of the gadgets in his display. He was a very likable man and people were fascinated by his stories."

Mr Fraser-Smith leaves a wife, Lin, and two children, Brian and Christine.



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مكتبة الأمل

Leasehold Reform

AN APPEAL TO SIR GEORGE YOUNG, MINISTER FOR HOUSING.

Today, 12th November, in Committee Room 12 of the House of Commons at 10.30 a.m., 34 MPs will decide whether several hundred thousand leaseholders of flats can purchase their freeholds.

If the government is unwilling to amend the Bill in 4 important respects then tens of thousands of flat owners will discover that they have been disenfranchised. The 4 amendments needed are:

AMENDMENT 1

Chapter 1 Clause 3 (1) (C) - WHO QUALIFIES?

This states that if less than two-thirds of the tenants of a building qualify - then they are excluded from enfranchisement. The 1987 Landlord and Tenant Act, which preceded this Bill, only required more than 50% to be qualified. That is what is required and is equitable.

AMENDMENT 2

Chapter 1 Clause 4 (1) (B) - COMMERCIAL SPACE

This states that if 10% or more of a floor area of a building is commercial i.e. usually shops or showrooms, then the whole of the rest of the building, if it contains flats, is excluded from enfranchisement. This means that the building will have to be at least 11 storeys high to be enfranchisable if there is just one row of shops, or 21 storeys high if the shops have basement storage. Thousands of flats will be excluded unless the commercial limit is raised to about 25%.

AMENDMENT 3

Chapter 1 Clause 6 (A) - 20 YEAR LEASES

Eligibility for enfranchisement only applies to tenants of leases whose original length exceeds 21 years. The purported reason for this is that there are some flat leases of 21 years or less at RACK RENTS. Rack rent flat leases are mainly 5, 7 or 10 years and there is little evidence of rack rented leases of 21 years.

The normal renewal period for long residential leases when they come to an end is to grant a new lease of a similar number of years for a substantial premium, i.e. 65 years for 65 years UNTIL just a few years ago the larger landlords in London generally began to offer only new leases of just 20 years. The consequences of this is that not only are such flats excluded from enfranchisement, but they alter the balance for the rest of the long lease tenants and exclude them from enfranchisement. The required amendment to restore the position is to reduce 21 years to 14 years.

AMENDMENT 4

Chapter 1 Clause 7 - LEASES AT LOW RENT

It is proposed that flat owners who pay a ground rent in Greater London of over £1,000 and elsewhere over £250 be disenfranchised. Many landlords have granted leases just above the minimum rent level, e.g. £1,005 which prevents such flats being enfranchised.

It has been proposed to raise the minimum rent to £5,000 (Greater London) and £1,000 elsewhere. This would help, but the low rent hurdle is entirely unnecessary. The complete clause including that of the rateable value hurdle should be eliminated. It only serves to prevent thousands of tenants from enfranchising.

SIR GEORGE, LEASEHOLDERS URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THESE AMENDMENTS TODAY. THIS WILL GUARANTEE THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF FLAT LEASEHOLDERS CAN BE ENFRANCHISED, WHICH WILL ACHIEVE THE COMMITTED OBJECTIVE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT.

Irreconcilable leaders show signs of rift that could split the church

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

WITHIN minutes of the debate opening on the ordination of women priests, the deep rift which could ultimately split the Church of England emerged in its highest echelons.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and the Bishop of London, Dr David Hope, the third most senior in the hierarchy, presented powerful arguments at odds with each other and apparently irreconcilable.

Dr Carey, who until yesterday had confined himself to appealing for unity and charity despite his personal support for women priests, laid his authority on the line in a speech in which he called on the synod "to take the risk of faith".

Dr Carey said God was calling the church to ordain women to the priesthood. "This is no precipitate measure foisted upon an unwilling church. It has been on the synod's agenda for nearly 20 years. We have experienced the ministry of well over 1,000 women in the diaconate. Elsewhere in the Anglican communion, women priests are making an increasingly important contribution."

The requirement of a two-thirds majority in the three houses of bishops, clergy and laity was a sign of the church's care for unity. "Few secular governing bodies set such a

demanding threshold," Dr Carey did not accept the argument that women priests would be a break with tradition. "We are not departing from a traditional concept of ministry. We are talking about an extension of the same ministry to include women."

He added: "We must draw on all our available talent, if we are to be a credible church engaged in a mission to an increasingly confused and lost world. We are in danger of not being heard if women are exercising leadership in every area of society's life, save the ordained priesthood."

Few traditionalists argued that it was impossible for a woman ever to be ordained, and most said they opposed the particular legislation before the synod. The Bishop of London, Dr Hope, said he was totally committed to women's full-time ministry but was not convinced this should be in the context of the ministerial priesthood and episcopate. He said he was certain that the legislation had not got it right. "I have strong hesitations and reservations about its aims, tone and possible effect on the Church of England."

The debate was opened with a disappointingly lacklustre speech from the Right Rev Michael Adie, Bishop of Guildford. "We are not here today aggressively to drive our convictions through and to



Double dilemma: twins Michael and Peter Ball, bishops of Truro and Gloucester, during yesterday's debate

defeat opponents," he said. Truth was not something to be imposed on others. The provisions for bishops, clergy and parishes ensured that those with differing views would have a respected and secure place in the church.

He argued from scripture to support the case for women priests. "Both men and women are made in the image of God. That is the fundamental truth of Genesis, picked up by Jesus according to the gospels, and eluded to by St Paul in his letter to the Galatians. Men and women are complementary to one another, equal but distinct partners."

The Ven David Silk, Archdeacon of Leicester, led the case for the opposition. He said the voting in dioceses and deaneries was by no means conclusive. Had a two-thirds majority in each house been required, as at the General Synod, only 41 per cent of deaneries and 52 per cent of diocesan synods would have carried the legislation.

The debate was "not about the undisputed value of the pastoral and preaching ministry of women," he said. Nor was it about sexism in the church or discrimination against women.

He argued against breaking 2,000 years of tradition. "The invariable practice of 2,000 years is terminated in a single sub-clause. Has then the Church been totally mistaken... hoodwinked and infected by social and cultural conditioning?" When Paul wrote in Galatians, "in Christ there is neither male nor female", he was speaking about baptism rather than ordination, Mr Silk claimed.

"The plain truth is that the ordination of women to the presbyterate, is not prescribed by holy scripture, nor may it be proved thereby. It is a new orthodoxy."

He believed that the legislation drove a wedge between the episcopate and the priesthood. He predicted "theological confusion and pastoral mayhem" and that "division will go right to the altar rail itself, and the eucharist will be marred by abstentions from communion, searingly painful for everyone."

Dr Christina Baxter, an evangelical of St John's College, Nottingham, refuted the "headship" argument which had been used repeatedly against women priests. She referred to two texts, from Ephesians — "For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church" — and Corinthians — "The head of every woman is Christ: the head of the woman is the man." Dr Baxter said these texts should be reinterpreted and did not refute women priests. The legislation should go ahead for "theological, practical and financial reasons".

John Gummer, agriculture minister, is a traditionalist synod member who has been a figurehead in the campaign against women priests. He said: "I am agnostic as to whether women can be priests. But I deeply believe that the Church of England has a role to play, not only in ecumenism but in the decade of evangelism. I hate the fact

that we have spent all these years arguing about this instead of winning souls for Christ."

The Right Rev Timothy Bavin, Bishop of Portsmouth and a strong traditionalist, said: "I want women to be ordained to the priesthood. I hope and believe that God may one day lead his church into that."

"But I cannot vote for that today. I cannot believe that the Church of England, and in particular this synod, has reached the point where they can be sure that this is the will of God."

The Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham and co-chairman of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, addressed the fear that women priests would lead to a permanent breach with the Roman Catholic Church. If Catholics

did not feel a close bond with the Church of England, they would not bother to express their concern. "But the fact is that we are concerned for communion with all our fellow Christians, including our fellow Anglicans who do ordain women, and not only for communion with Rome."

The Rev June Osborne, a deacon of Bow, east London, issued a plea for her vocation as a priest to be tested. She said she had been in the professional ministry for 17 years, during which time she had had many jobs and performed many functions. Opponents were using the ordination of women as a hook on which to hang other concerns and thus were making the vocation of women a scapegoat, she suggested.

Synod votes "yes", page 1
Leading article, page 21

Polite and prayerful flock takes the axe to an historic oak

SYNOD SKETCH

"Sometime God shows his truth leisurely, suffering his flock to commune and dispute thereupon..."

"Brrrrring! It's a hard thing when a man can't quote St Thomas More without a fire alarm going off. The Ven David Silk, Archdeacon of Leicester, opening the case against women's ordination, glared momentarily. Duffily, the flock cleared the hall, communed thereupon and trooped back after discovering that not some mischievous deaconess but a mere canteen fire had rung the alarm."

"As I was saying," the archdeacon resumed, "Consent, concord, truth, Holy Spirit!" He warmed to his theme. Nothing wrong with women: everything wrong with the legislation. "You cannot terminate the practice of 2,000 years in a single sub-clause," he said. "It's fairyland!" he snapped, departing from his printed speech. The Bishop of Guildford, proposer of the motion, smiled worriedly. He had asked for "a loving and prayerful atmosphere".

Mindful of the 198 other aspiring speakers, the archbishops of York and Canterbury proved themselves all day to be demons with the red light and the cut-off bell. Arguments, more and less loving, flew past on wings of metaphor. Dr Christina Baxter, all in white, spoke of gazing into an abyss and signing blank cheques, before diving abruptly into the latest scholarship on the Hebrew original of the Greek *Kephale* and whether man's headship is ruler-ship or source-ship. Dr Carey, curiously relaxed and cheery, avoided scholarship and metaphor alike to speak of the generosity of God.

The Rev Peter Broadbent, from Harrow, returned plaintively to the missing *Kephale*, saying: "If you are a male, when did you last

actually exercise headship?"

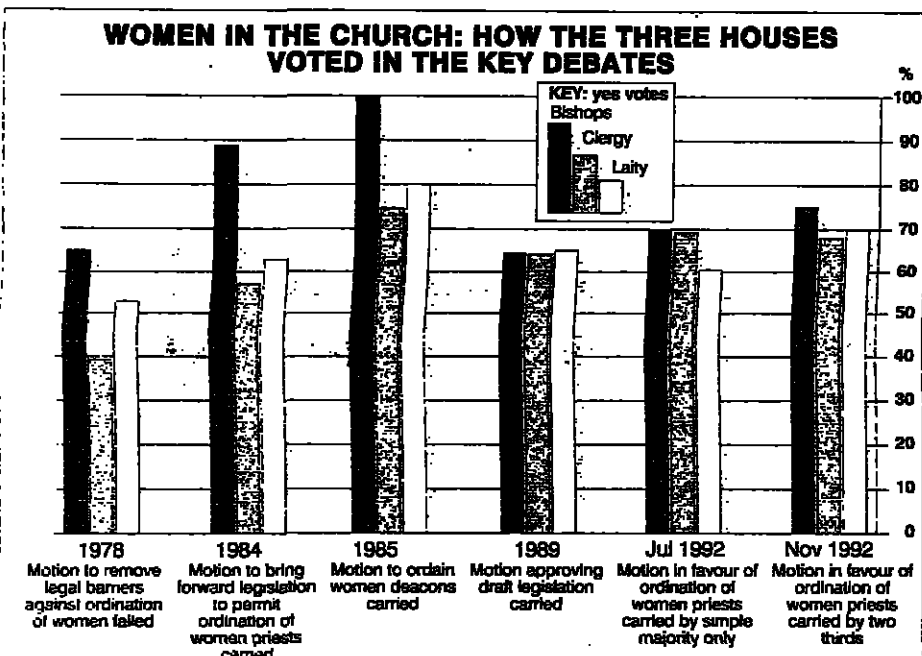
The hall rocked.

The strategy for an Anglican leader rejecting change without wishing to cause offence is to look terribly, terribly worried. Anguished. To dread the schism that would follow women's ordination owing to the strong feelings of those who might — regrettably — walk out. At the same time, one must not, oneself, utter unloving and unprayerful threats to resign. Oh no.

Not unless one is John Gummer, and feels free to deliver a threatening reflection on what one would "most miss" about the Church of England if one's headship were nobbled. Not a chortle was heard in that well-disciplined assembly over what it might miss about Mr Gummer.

In violent-yellow blouse, Dorothy Chatterley, of Seascale, cracked with sarcastic anger against the motion. The assembly palpably did not like that. Better received was the calm passion of women up for ordination, such as the Rev June Osborne: "In the mercy of God, and the love of Christ, I ask you, test my vocation!" That cry rang on, not even drowned by the virtuoso scripples speech of the Rev Peter Geldard, in deepest black, his hand gracefully sketching an historic oak, "roots and sinews going deep to areas none of us fully understand. I would say 'Woodman! before you take your axe...'". The collective woodman listened politely and lovingly, sharpening its axe. By tea-time, the oak was down and the veil of the temple rent in twain.

LIBBY PURVES



Millions set aside for payoffs

IN an attempt to preserve the unity of the Church of England, the organisation that has led the opposition to women priests is proposing to set up a system of "alternative episcopal oversight" (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Cost of Conscience has 3,500 stipendiary clergymen on its books, of which about 2,500 are expected to seek alternative episcopal oversight. About 1,000 could leave, taking advantage of generous financial provisions that will cost the church about £11 million for every 100 who go for reasons of conscience.

The Rev Geoffrey Kirk, vicar of St Stephen's, Lewisham, says his superior, the Right Rev Roy Williamson, Bishop of Southwark, is certain to ordain women.

Not all will have to. Under clause 2.1 of the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure, a bishop of a diocese

THE COST

may declare that a woman is not to be ordained priest within his diocese, that a woman cannot be a team vicar or incumbent in the diocese, and that a woman ordained outside the diocese cannot officiate or act as a priest within the diocese.

Cost of Conscience will soon meet the other two organisations that have opposed women priests, the Association for the Apostolic Ministry, which has 8,000 clergy and lay men and women on its books, and the 7,000-strong Women Against the Ordination of Women.

Before the measure goes to Parliament next June, these organisations are expected to lobby all 44 diocesan bishops, asking them to make the declarations in clause 2.1, or for a statement as to their

THE COST

intentions if they wish to ordain women priests. Cost of Conscience has clergy members in all 44 dioceses, and is most strongly represented in Chichester, London, Truro, Exeter and Blackburn.

Priests will be able to petition the nearest diocesan bishop outside their own diocese to oversee their ministry. Mr Kirk said this would create a "college of priests" under the bishop. But this would be a fundamental change to the structure of the Church of England. He said: "It is legislated schism. But we have not set up a schismatic church. The committee which drew up legislation did that for us."

He said the areas opposed to women priests conformed generally to the areas which in the 16th century opposed the "pilgrimage of grace" — the Protestantisation of the Church of England.

Applause for change

AS glasses of wine were raised by two women deacons in south London to toast the synod's vote, their telephone rang with messages of congratulation from friends.

The Rev Sheila Coughtry, deacon in charge of Brixton Hill and Kingsacre, and the Rev Maggie Durran, deacon of St Matthew's, Brixton Hill, clapped in amazement as they watched the television announcement of the vote that will enable them to fulfil their ambitions to become priests.

"I'm overjoyed," said Ms Durran. "This gives hope to the church. It's a way forward and makes the church fit in to the society we live in."

"I can barely believe it, I'm absolutely delighted," said Ms Coughtry. "This is an end and a beginning. If it had failed we would have gone on with all the arguing."

Both women expressed relief, but were not yet able to assess the news that will

CITY VIEW

change the course of their religious lives. Ms Durran, a deacon for 18 months, had feared that a no vote would have forced many women clergy and their parishioners to leave the church. "I don't know what I would have done, but I know some women would have left. Some said they would not even go to church on a Sunday again," she said.

Ms Coughtry talked about an elderly woman from one of her previous parishes. "She wouldn't take communion from me, she couldn't get used to the idea that I was a woman. But after a year, just before I left that parish, she asked me to go and see her. She told me how she had changed her mind, and how it had just taken her time to adjust to the concept of women in the church."

Tradition gives way

RURAL VIEW

IN THE tiny parish of Nidd, 200 miles upcountry from the cauldron of Church House, there was little talk last night of the epoch-making vote to accept women priests (Paul Wilkinson writes).

In this staunchly conservative collection of just 100 souls a few miles into the North Yorkshire countryside from the market town of Knaresborough, the decision was greeted phlegmatically.

"We are traditionalist round here, most country people are," said Ronald Kent, 71, the vicar of St Paul and St Margaret's church for the past 36 years. "We still use the 1662 order of service, but we see the seasons come and go. Things change, there are great many other problems facing the church and the world which are more difficult."

There has been a church at Nidd since Saxon times, although the present building

RURAL VIEW

was erected by the Victorian forebears of the present local estate owner, Lord Mountgarret, who still has a hand in the incumbent's appointment.

The parochial church council members debated the question of women priests recently and uniformly agreed that they were opposed, but now the vote is in, opinions are changing. Jim Walton, 76, the treasurer, and 21 years a parishioner, said: "Originally we pooch-pooched the idea, but now it's come I'm prepared to give it a try. I'll not just turn up my nose at it."

His wife Mary, the council secretary, is also rethinking the matter. "I don't think it's a bad move after all," she said. "I was wondering whether I could take communion from a woman; it would seem strange at first, but I think I could get used to it."

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مكتبة الأصل

Computer aids fight to save lives in fire disasters

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE experiences of hundreds of people caught in fires, including those injured at King's Cross Tube station and Bradford City football ground, have been incorporated into a computer program that could improve the safety of buildings and public places.

The system attempts to match people's responses to fires with a building's design and the way the blaze may develop. It calculates the proportion of simulated characters who would escape or be overcome by flames and fumes under a variety of conditions.

The information allows an architect to redesign a building or an engineer to restructure an oil platform, running the program again to see if casualties are reduced.

The system was designed by Keith Still, a physicist and former operations manager of a biochemical company in Slough, who lives in Chinnor, Oxfordshire. He has demonstrated the system to fire researchers at the govern-

ment's Fire Research Station in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. Brian Pigott, division head for economics and fire safety at the station, who has seen the system in operation, said yesterday that it appeared to have great potential.

The simulated characters generated by the programme interact with each other.



Still: "People will stand around and watch"

They are aware of their environment and will avoid walls but pass through doors. In devising the programme, which is called VEGAS, Mr Still has drawn on the emerging technology of virtual reality and modern arcade games. He has also drawn on research carried out by David Canter, a psychology professor at Surrey University, who has found that people generally behave in quite predictable ways when facing a fire, with reactions depending on the location of a blaze, smoke levels, changes in temperature or alarm signals.

Other factors influencing behaviour, and which are reflected in the model, are the age, occupation and physical fitness of victims.

Mr Still said: "The elderly, rugby players, people in wheelchairs, and mothers will all react differently." For example, when large numbers of people push towards an exit, mothers will push against the flow if separated from their children.

Another factor is the pres-

ence, or lack of, a perceived figure of authority. People will generally be guided by a policeman but may ignore hospital or hotel staff whom they see as subservient.

"It is also often assumed when designing a building that people leave when they hear the alarm... this system does not make that assumption. More often than not, people will stand around and watch a fire for a while," Mr Still said. "The fact that someone will always go back for his pen is also programmed in."

Mr Still said that the computer was not yet designed to provide a risk assessment of a building or to approve its safety. But he believes that it might play an important role in helping architects and engineers minimise the dangers in an office, oil platform or factory.

After running the programme 100 times under different conditions and with different groups of simulated personalities, it may be found that, statistically, large num-



Danger points: this simulation of an office fire, with the flames illustrated by red pyramids, can trace the likely movements of workers trying to escape and indicate how the danger to life can be reduced

bers of people appear to fall victim. Simply adding an extra fire escape door to the design could be the key to saving lives.

Mr Still believes that the system could also help fire safety officers at buildings and factories to train staff

better. "If you took a building with, say, 3,000 people to look at worst case scenarios with fires on various floors, you can plan escape strategies. Once you have developed these you can demonstrate them to staff," he added.

Whether Mr Still's simula-

tion can be developed to become a full risk assessment model will depend on testing by fire researchers and how other systems under development abroad and at the Fire Research Station compare.

One way to test the model is to program into it the details

of a known fire, such as the one at King's Cross, and see how it calculates people's movements.

In January, an EC workplace directive comes into force that will require a risk analysis of any place where one of more people work.

£40m thief returns to face music in Italy

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

VALERIO Vicci, the Italian mastermind behind the £40 million Knightsbridge safe-deposit robbery, was flown under guard to Rome yesterday to serve the rest of his 22-year sentence and face questioning over 57 robberies.

Convicted in 1989 for leading the theft, in which 120 boxes were opened in an operation planned with the then owner of the deposit centre, Vicci was taken from Parkhurst prison on the Isle of Wight under armed guard, brought to the mainland by ferry and driven in a van to Heathrow with an escort.

At the airport he was put in a helicopter and flown to an office where he was surrounded by police. Vicci, whose autobiography published earlier this year claimed the 1987 robbery yielded up to £60 million, managed a smile as he joined other passengers.

Vicci was described by the judge who sentenced him at the Old Bailey as charming, able and dangerous.

Born in Bologna, he came to Britain after being investigated by the Italian police for alleged right-wing terrorist attacks and a series of robberies.

Having suborned Parvez Latif, the debt-ridden owner of the deposit centre, Vicci and his gang got into the centre opposite Harrods one Sunday posing as customers. The haul filled seven large plastic bags, and police have yet to recover some of the loot or even discover its value because some renters were not traced.

Vicci was caught after leaving a fingerprint in the deposit vault.

Prince proposes tour link with RSC

By Alison Roberts, Arts Reporter

THE Prince of Wales yesterday sympathised with a recession-struck British theatre and spoke of a "worrying trend" towards late bookings and smaller audiences.

Speaking as the president of the Royal Shakespeare Company at its annual meeting in Stratford-upon-Avon, the prince said that the theatre in the West End and beyond was experiencing very tough times.

He congratulated the company for a year which had produced an operating surplus of more than £550,000, but said the remaining deficit of almost £2.5 million would be a "worry for years to come".

In a suggestion bound to meet with wider royal approval, he asked the company to coincide some of its foreign tours with those made by the royal family. A joint diplomatic effort would display a collective "British cultural clout where it would be most effective", he said.

He added that his weekend trips to the theatre had been "one of the great joys in my life recently. It has given me wonderful excitement, and, as a late developer, has given me an even greater knowledge of Shakespeare than I had previously."

The company's annual report for the year 1991-2 showed the company recovering from financial troubles that had forced the closure of the Barbican Theatre and the RSC from November 1990 to March 1991. The RSC reached an audience of more than 1,100,000 people in the past year.

Llama stakes a claim to the British diet

By Ronald Falk

JADED Geordie appetites are taking to llama steaks in the search for ever more exotic fare.

Shirley Van der Laan, whose butchery business has in the past reduced wild boar and ostrich to sausage meat, was offered a llama that had become a liability to keep and a danger to sell.

She said yesterday: "The meat is excellent, rather like milk-fed veal. All the llamas I have had have already been sold or have been ordered." Her shop in Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, charges £12 a lb for llama fillet steaks and £6.50 for sirloin.

Van der Laan has specialised in unusual meats for 21 years. The initial 120lb batch of llama and pork sausages, she said, was snapped up immediately.

The animal in question came from Henry's Hill Farm, Kirklington, where Paul Adorian had been faced with the need to put down a four-year-old llama. He had been curious to discover the quality of llama meat and offered the carcass free.

He said yesterday: "People will complain about the eating of animals in this country that are part of the daily diet in other countries as though it is

a crime. It would seem to be a case of dual standards to suit the conscience."

Bur Peter Knowles-Brown, chairman of the British Camellid Owners' and Breeders' Association, thought the notion of turning llamas into sausage meat was revolting. The aim of the society was to encourage the keeping and breeding of the animals for their wool, not for butchery. His association's annual meeting this weekend is likely to debate the delicate question.

Pat Bentley, an alpaca breeder in Newby, Cumbria, took a commercial view. "If people are going to breed these animals for pets some will be surplus to requirements. If they cannot be used for meat they are likely to be stuck in a field and ignored. They are tough animals indigenous to 15,000ft."

"My ambition is to grow alpacas alongside a processing business making it viable for farmers, knowing the deep trouble that hill farmers are now in," she said.

How readily Cumbrian hill farmers would agree to mingle their flocks with hapless ruminants from Peru able to swivel their heads through 180 degrees and spit, is not on record.

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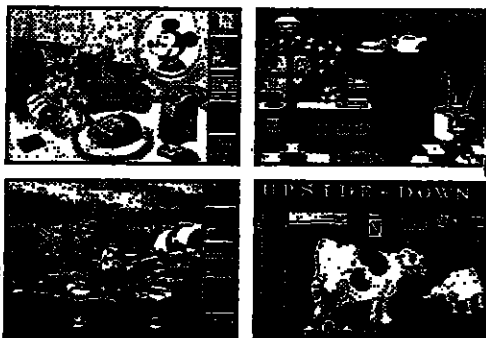
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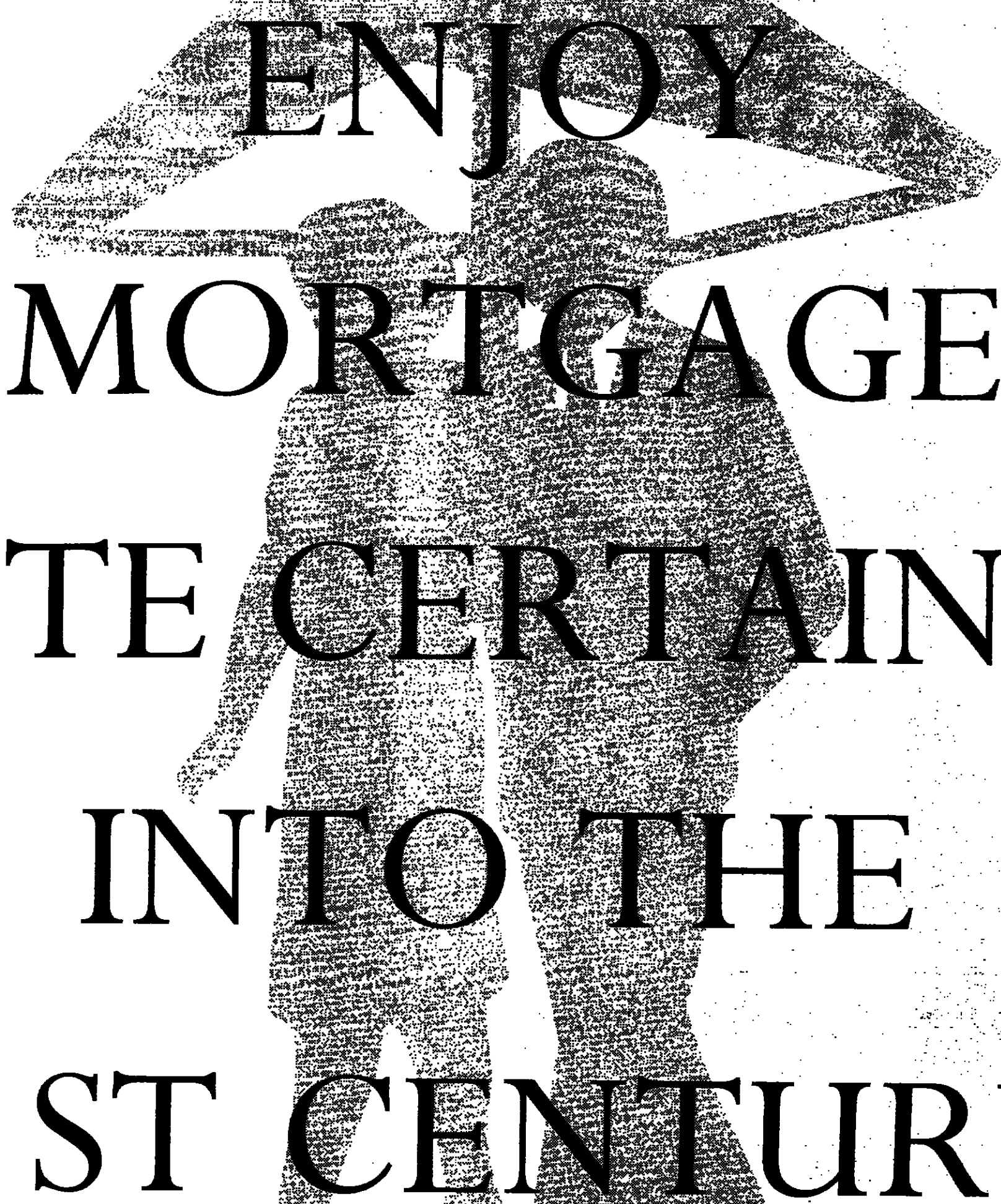
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Price slump puts millions in danger of mortgage trap

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

MORE than three million homeowners could be trapped in houses worth less than their mortgage by the end of next year if this year's house price falls are repeated.

A report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimates that of the five million people who have bought homes since 1987, a million such families already have negative equity.

Recent price falls in the past two months of 4 per cent mean that by December the number of such households will have risen to 1.4 million. By October next year, the number could be three million, assuming house price falls over the year of about 7 per cent, the same percentage as this year.

Daniel Dorling, author of the Joseph Rowntree report, *The extent of negative equity*, said that the consequences for the economy would be very serious. "People aren't going to buy cars until, for example, they are sure of the level of capital they've got in the house," he said.

The report called on Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to offer a package in his Autumn Statement today to help homeowners with negative equity. Many hundreds of thousands of families with negative equity had no obvious means of escape from the debt trap, it said, because they were relatively low income families, who had low incomes and had bought the cheapest type of housing, with high percentage mortgages, and many could expect little help from their parents.

"The problem with schemes so far which have been announced by lenders, such as the Woolwich's Parent Line, are that they assume that people with negative equity will have parents who can bail them out. Our research shows that this is often not the case with people with negative equity. They are people who have struggled to enter the housing market at the bottom end." Such families would be the least well-placed to

escape from the negative equity trap.

One idea that has been suggested is that the Chancellor should help those with arrears by introducing a mortgage benefit scheme which would be an extension of housing benefit. The report suggested that mortgage interest tax relief should be phased out gradually, in contrast to the suggestion of lenders who have been pushing for an increase in Miras. "This would help raise the revenue for any kind of other scheme," Mr Dorling said.

Such a scheme could be aimed at people in most need. The report shows that negative equity is most prevalent in the South East.

Of recent buyers in London, buying between 1988 and 1991, 41 per cent have negative equity, compared with only 1 per cent in Scotland. Those with negative equity in London also have higher than average unsecured mortgage debt, on average £5,500 per household. This compares with a national average of £4,400.

Outside London, the highest average values of negative equity are found in Luton, Southend, and Basildon. The worst affected are those who bought with 100 per cent mortgages. Six out of ten owners who had bought with a 100 per cent mortgage were found to be suffering negative equity, as were four out of ten who had raised a deposit of 5 per cent or less, the report showed.

Although concentrated in the South East, negative equity matters to the nation because of its effect on consumer spending and labour mobility. "Negative equity traps people in their homes unless they are willing to trade down or can raise enough capital to bridge the equity gap," the report said.

The problems of negative equity could be a feature for many years to come, the report said. This could establish new social divisions caused by mortgage debt.



Short shrift: traditionally docked dogs, before and after, including the corgi, the boxer and the doberman. The Queen is thought to favour docking

Royal audience awaits the fate of puppy dog tails

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

Slugs and snails may be the only ingredients of little boys in future if some vets have their way

THE shape of things in the dog-breeding world may change for ever after a meeting today of the council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, which is to decide whether to ban the docking of puppies' tails.

Piquancy will be added to the debate by the knowledge that the college's patron, the Queen, also happens to be the owner of the world's most famous docked dogs and is thought privately to oppose abolition of the centuries-old custom.

While the monarch has held her peace in public, the Princess Royal has felt less inhibited. She rebuked members of the British Veterinary Association at their annual congress in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, last month, for "getting so uptight"

about docking and told them to concentrate on more important matters.

The princess pooh-poohed suggestions of cruelty, saying that puppies docked when less than a week old barely knew what was going on, and defended tail removal for gundogs as "sound preventive treatment". Left as nature intended, such breeds ran the risk of badly injuring their tails when working in dense bramble or briar, she said.

Forty-seven of the 185 breeds registered with the Kennel Club, the studbook authority for pedigree

dogs since 1873, have been docked customarily though the operation has never been mandatory for show purposes. The dog population is about 7.5 million and 1.3 million of these are estimated to have had their tails removed or shortened.

Apart from the royal corgis, docked breeds include boxers, dobermanns, old English sheepdogs, pointers, spaniels and terriers. Docking of fighting dogs was originally intended to reduce the number of parts an adversary could seize but is now mere custom. Breeders say docking improves hygiene in long-haired breeds.

The royal college is to decide whether docking should be regarded as "prima facie evidence of disgraceful professional conduct" for which a vet could be struck off. The college's code of conduct already declares docking to be an "unnecessary mutilation" and "not

ethically correct". Up to now the college has held back from making docking a disciplinary offence because the law allowed any person over the age of 18 to perform the operation without anaesthetic on puppies less than seven days old. But from next July, under an amendment to the Veterinary Surgeons Act, docking will be legal only if done by qualified vets.

Although surveys suggest most vets would support a ban, a lively correspondence in *The Veterinary Record*, the profession's house journal, over the past month has revealed a strong minority view. Jonathan Stirling, who practises at Wadebridge, Cornwall, said it was hypocritical of small-animal vets to object to docking when a large part of their income came from treating conditions brought about by selective breeding.

"Is the respiratory distress en-

dured throughout the lifetime of the average prize-winning bulldog considered to be acceptable? A cynic might take the view that perhaps our interest in docking is little more than expedience, a sop to the conscience of the profession; after all, it doesn't alter our incomes much and it helps us to look so 'caring' while we turn a blind eye to those keepers of reptiles who delight in feeding live prey to their charges."

Ginette Elliott, joint secretary and founder member of the Council of Docked Breeds, which represents 130 breed clubs in Britain, said: "The fact is that docking will still be legal after next July and there is no reason for vets to set themselves above the law. The royal college should leave docking to the conscience of the individual vet."

Leading article, page 21

Ambridge goes to market in Russia

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

CAN the skills that go into producing *The Archers*, that most cosy, rural and British of institutions, possibly be transferred to the cut-throat, crime-ridden world of urban Moscow, 1992? We shall soon find out.

From January next year, Moscow's most superior commercial radio station will start broadcasting daily episodes — with an omnibus edition on Sunday to boot — of what it hopes will be a never-ending saga of ordinary Russian tower block-dwelling folk.

The programme has been developed by a team of British consultants, led by the author and editor Liz Rigbey, who honed their radio soap opera-producing talents in the rolling hills of Dorsetshire.

As handouts to a somewhat bemused Russian press have been explaining, a soap opera is a "radio play which consists of many episodes and has permanent characters". *The Archers*, it is further pointed out, is the world's most successful soap opera, having run for 42 years.

As it happens, Russians are already only too well aware of what soap operas are. One of the few things that hold the states of the former Soviet Union together is the fact that all of them tune in at least once a day to a Mexican television serial of stunning banality, entitled *The Rich Also Cry*. Everyday existence is so dreary and exhausting that the Mexican saga provides a vital dose of escapism.

But will Russians really become hooked on the story of an unemployed scientist, a plumber, a businessman and a *babushka* (grandmother) as they rub shoulders in an all-too-familiar-sounding block of flats in central Moscow?

Ms Rigbey is convinced that Russian soap opera tastes will evolve at least as rapidly as British ones have. Five years ago, she points out, British preferences leaned heavily towards escapist productions such as *Dallas* and *Dynasty*. Then more realistic offerings like *EastEnders* came along, and even in her own Ambridge difficult issues such as abortion and race relations have been tackled.

If the setting for *Building*

Number Seven, *Entrance Number Four* sounds a bit more Albert Square than Ambridge, there is one important respect in which the new offering by Echo Moscow resembles Ms Rigbey's programme. Just as *The Archers* was conceived as a digestible way of propagating information about new farming techniques — a kind of "agricultural Dick Barton" as one of its creators put it — the new series on Echo Moscow also has a didactic purpose.

Funded by the British government and private sponsors, the series is intended to offer some very gentle help with "understanding the principles on which democratic societies are based" and "acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for doing business in a profitable and honest way".

Ms Rigbey is adamant that, unlike an Austrian television series which has been launched in Russia with the same purpose, or indeed the very early episodes of *The Archers*, the new Russian soap will not be too heavy-handed in its educational task. Above all, she emphasises, it will be funny.

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing the programme's makers is the doubt — at least in the minds of most Russians — about the underlying proposition — that honesty is the best policy.

Mackay backs ethnic guidance for judges

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

EVERY judge in England and Wales is to be sent guidelines on how to handle ethnic minorities as part of a new programme to improve a widespread lack of racial awareness among parts of the judiciary.

The new guidelines, approved by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, have been devised by a committee under Mr Justice Brooke, set up just over a year ago to tackle the training of judges in racial awareness and to combat discrimination.

The judiciary will also be sent information packs on the different ways that other cultures use names and, possibly, on communication problems and body language.

Yesterday, launching the committee's first annual report, Mr Justice Brooke conceded that the scale of the problem, which derived largely from ignorance, had not surprised him after some six years of work in the area of race relations at the Bar and with judges. It was inevitable that there would be a gap, given the cultural backgrounds of judges of his generation, who were "brought up in a different world", and those from the ethnic minorities coming before the courts.

The booklets are part of a programme of training aimed

first at educating judges and magistrates on basic cultural differences of the main ethnic minority communities and then at identifying the areas that most commonly cause offence. The programme also involves sessions in racial awareness as part of the compulsory training and refresher courses for judges and magistrates.

Mr Justice Brooke said the problem varied from area to area. Magistrates in areas with high ethnic populations, such as West Yorkshire, had a high degree of racial awareness, he said.

There were big difficulties in other parts of the country, where "things might very well go wrong through misunderstanding, ignorance and mistakes".

The guide recommends, for instance, that facilities for Sikhs and Muslims to wash should be available at all courts; that certain holy books should be covered except when being touched by the witness; and to abandon the practice in some courts of attaching the Jewish head-covering to the Old Testament with a rubber band, "which looks disrespectful and often results in the covering becoming dirty".

□ *1st Annual Report of the Ethnic Minorities Advisory Committee* (Judicial Studies Board, 14 Little St James's Street, London, SW1A 1DP)

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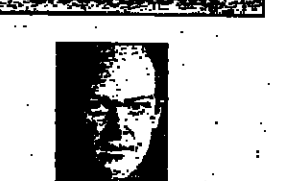
I WAS walking in the fields near our house the other evening when I chanced upon a cow adding up her cheque stubs, busily calculating the total amount of money she had paid out over the course of the previous month.

A few yards further on, I caught sight of another cow turning in for an early night, so as to be up bright and breezy the following morning.

"Much more sensible than staying up too late and feeling washed out the next day," commented a cow behind me. I turned to look at her. She was composing a neat shopping list, full of useful things like extra detergent, bin-liners and a fresh

The way it isn't

CRACKBROOK



set of kitchen towels. I lit a cigarette in order to steady my nerves.

"Excuse me!" said another cow, "but has nobody informed you of the dangers of passive smoking?" This cow then proceeded to wash some grass in a trough of clean water so as to make sure it was germ-free. At that point I realised that all these poor

animals had caught the dreaded Same Cow Disease, or Bovine Sensiform. Perfectly average cows had become overnight victims of a mass outbreak of extreme common sense.

At the far end of the field, I witnessed a group of cows listening to the next day's weather forecast in full, while others were deciding to eat at home rather than waste money on a restaurant, and still others were preparing for a quick jog before watching a nation programme on television, and so to bath, coo, tooth-flossing and bed. "Wouldn't you like a Scotch before bed?" I asked in desperation.

"Slippery slope," they replied, "slippery slope."

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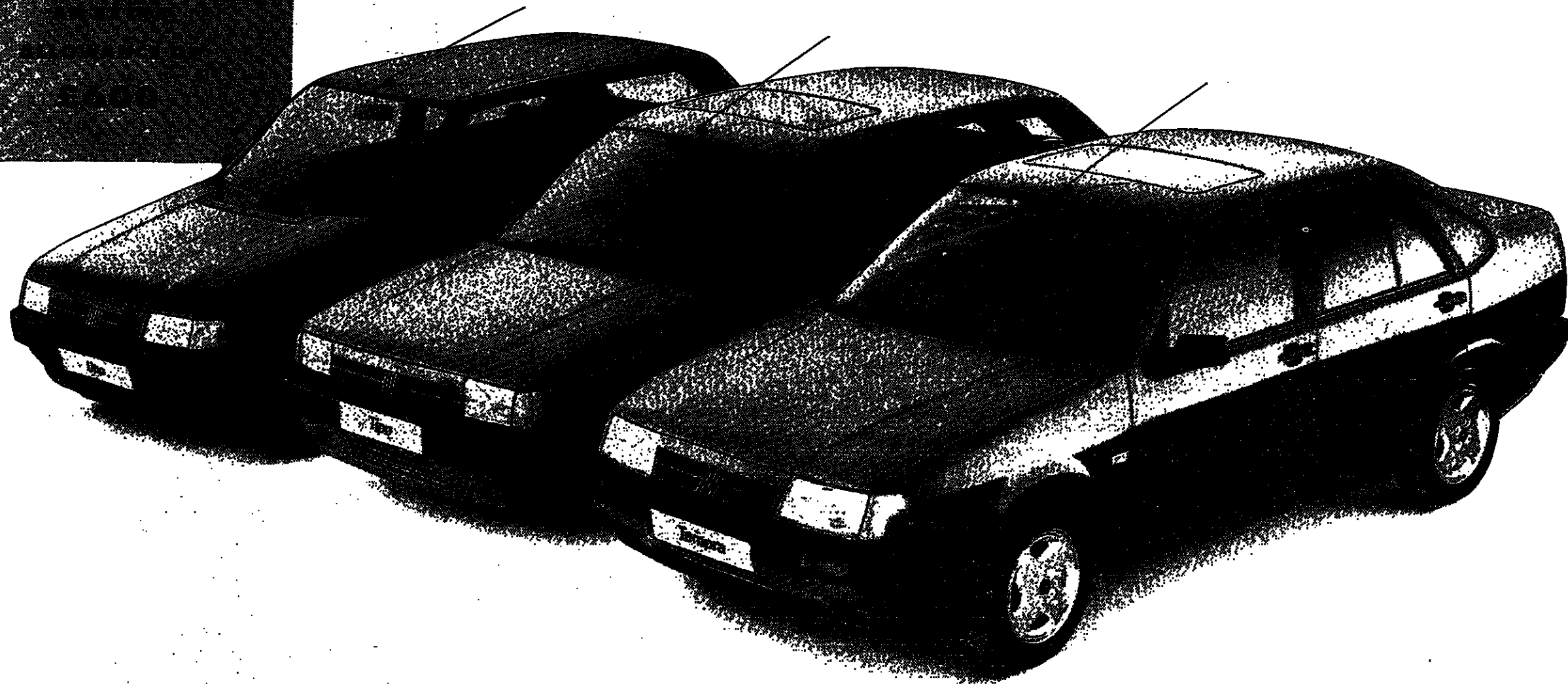
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Mayhew puts brave face on Ulster failure

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AFTER reporting to MPs yesterday on the failure of the six-month talks process in Ulster, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, insisted yesterday that a comprehensive agreement on the future of the province could be secured.

Progress had been made towards a new beginning in the relationships between the United Kingdom and Irish governments and within Northern Ireland itself, he said.

Informal talks will continue between politicians from the four constitutional parties. The key area for discussion remains the structure for a new Northern Ireland assembly with devolved powers from Westminster. In addition, ministers from the two governments will meet next Monday under the auspices of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Seeking to put a brave face on the end of the talks without agreement yesterday, Sir Patrick and politicians of all persuasions found common ground in recognising that the very fact of talking together is, in itself, something of an achievement. Sir Patrick told the Commons: "The whole House, although doubtless disappointed that we have not been able to achieve that fuller agreement, will welcome that commitment."

The objectives of the talks process, divided into three strands, remain valid and achievable both in his view and that of Sir Ninian Stephen, the former governor-general of Australia, who chaired strand two. "The objectives are realistic," Sir Patrick said. "We have a duty therefore to build on what has been begun, however slow that process may have been."

The government would persevere and continued its commitment to resolute, fair and just government in Northern Ireland. "We have a duty not to lose patience with what is a deeply historical problem; not

to give way to exasperation; not to recriminate," he added.

MPs, both from the different Ulster parties and mainland parties, did seek to blame others. Ulster and Democratic Unionists complained of the Irish ministers' reluctance to commit themselves to relinquishing their claim to Northern Ireland, and the continuance of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Other MPs protested at the Unionist MPs' refusal to sit on the British-Irish parliamentary body.

Kevin McNamara, the shadow Northern Ireland secretary, said that although the talks were in abeyance the agreement continued and should be "widened and deepened". To Unionist jeers he added: "If it becomes apparent that there is little chance of the parties securing an agreement, we must move further towards the greater sharing of the responsibility between the two governments in the affairs of Northern Ireland."

After Mr McNamara warned against forcing through change, Sir Patrick assured MPs: "There is no question of an imposed solution."

James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionist MPs, who had attended talks in Dublin, said he believed that politicians had moved forward to some extent and the climate had "definitely improved".

Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, said no progress could be made until the Republic gave up its "illegal and immoral" claim over Northern Ireland.

For the Social and Democratic Labour Party, John Hume said six months was a short time in the history of Northern Ireland and dialogue must continue.

Tom King, the former Northern Ireland secretary, commented that there was real disappointment in Sir Patrick's statement but he refused to believe that the talks had been a waste of time.



Winning line-up: two People of the Year, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the overseas development minister, left, and Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons, are joined by Baroness Thatcher at an awards ceremony yesterday. Lady Thatcher, who was guest speaker at

the luncheon at the London Hilton Hotel, was snubbed by the entertainer Roy Castle, who is recovering from lung cancer, because of her links with the tobacco industry (Julia Llewellyn Smith writes). Mr Castle refused to shake her hand because she is reportedly considering a

consultancy with Philip Morris, the American tobacco company. Mr Castle, one of the People of the Year, also refused to join Lady Thatcher for drinks. He said: "I am very disappointed she is supporting the sale of cigarettes to people who are ignorant of the results." Among the

winners of what until this year was called the Men of the Year awards were the Olympic gold medal winners Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell, and Alan Anderson, who was forced to land a light aircraft, despite having no flying experience, after the pilot collapsed and died.

Peers vote for leader

ONE thing is certain today: another Welshman will be elected as Labour's leader in the Lords in place of Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos (Sheila Gunn writes).

After the votes of about 100 Labour peers are counted at lunchtime, Lord (Ivor) Richard QC is expected to emerge as the winner over Lord (Charles) Williams. Lord Richard probably has a slight edge as a former Commons man. He is closely attuned politically to John Smith, the Labour leader, and like him voted for EC membership in defiance of the party whip.

In the 1970s he was Britain's ambassador to the United Nations. He later chaired the abortive Rhodesia conference in Geneva and moved to Brussels to become the EC social affairs commissioner.

Labour to set new economic agenda

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is to try to lead a national debate about a new economic agenda for Britain, rather than becoming bogged down in detailed proposals about taxation and spending, Gordon Brown signalled to Labour MPs yesterday.

The shadow chancellor told a meeting of the parliamentary Labour party that the priority was to put forward radical proposals for national and international intervention to boost the economy, and to show that the economics of the 1980s had failed.

Mr Brown, who on Monday dropped Labour's election manifesto plans to raise taxes and national insurance contributions, said that Labour's aim must be to set out the role of government in meeting the technological and demographic changes of the 1990s. His message was clearly

that Labour should not at this early stage of the present parliament become deeply involved in discussions about commitments that would form part of the next election manifesto, and that its priority must be to win the battle of ideas.

The leadership is not shying away from setting out plans for funding extra public spending, and on Monday proposed the idea of a public dividend from the excess profits of the privatised industries. However, Mr Brown believes that Labour's central aim at present should be to emphasise the role of government in breaking through the "paralysis" that is afflicting industry and the economy, and to encourage the public sector to become the engine of growth.

He told MPs yesterday that interest rate cuts alone would not produce a sustainable

recovery. The expansion of consumer demand must be matched by a policy of industrial expansion and government intervention to achieve it. Labour's strategy must not be to wait and watch, but to seize the initiative with a radical agenda for the development of the national economy and ideas for boosting the world economy, Mr Brown said. He and other shadow ministers are to make speeches across the country calling for a change of direction to meet the challenge of the new decade with environmental and technological changes.

Mr Brown's unspoken message was that Labour should not become saddled with commitments on taxation and spending that may seem out-of-date by the time of the next election.

Mr Brown said the govern-

ment would today try to "defend the indefensible" in its Autumn Statement. He said the nation would react strongly to any decisions which meant nurses or other key workers being "forced to pay the price for the government's failures". "There is a common thread that runs through everything that is going wrong for the government over these last months. It is the total failure of the crude free-market government of the 1980s. What we need to replace this is a new form of national and international action and economic intervention."

"Nothing [the government] does tomorrow will prevent unemployment continuing to rise or industrial capacity to continue to weaken. Public spending cuts will cause poverty to rise and will deepen the recession."



Britain to host Rio follow-up

The government is to host an international conference on the implementation of the Earth Summit agreements reached in Rio de Janeiro in June, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, said in written reply. Dr Martin Holdgate, director-general of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature has been asked to chair the three-day gathering in Manchester next September.

Party shuffle

Mark Fisher, Labour's former spokesman on the arts, has been recalled to the front bench as a spokesman on the citizen's charter. Peter Snape, who has been a spokesman on transport for nearly ten years, has returned to the back benches and is replaced by Brian Wilson, who was a spokesman on the citizen's charter.

Election bill

A bill to limit the money spent nationally by political parties during election campaigns was introduced in the Commons by Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West. At present, only candidates' expenses are limited.

New peer

Lord Weir, a Lord of Appeal, took his seat in the House of Lords.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; prime minister. Autumn Statement. Debate on adoption law review.

Lords (3): Judicial pensions and retirement bill, third reading.

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TIMES GUIDE TO THE AUTUMN STATEMENT

A late blossoming for November money-go-round

By PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

THIS afternoon, in his Autumn Statement, Norman Lamont will announce measures which will affect millions of house buyers, public sector workers, recipients of social security benefits, payers of national insurance contributions, and the unemployed. The direct financial impact will be much greater than any tax changes in the spring Budget.

But the Autumn Statement has been a poor relation. It has had none of the familiar ritual which surrounds the spring Budget when the Chancellor goes for a walk in St James's Park and waves Gladstone's red box in Downing Street. For once, however, today's statement is being given the public attention it deserves. That is largely because of the seriousness of the government's plight and the big hole left in economic policy by the withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism on September 16.

Public spending decisions have always been among the most difficult, and time-consuming, facing any cabinet since they determine what ministers can do. In his memoirs, *Inside the Treasury*, Joel Barnett, the Labour chief secretary from 1974 until 1979, records the arguments over spending with formidable adversaries such as Tony Crosland and Peter Shore which preoccupied the cabinets of the day. Disputes over spending have provoked many of the most famous ministerial resignations from Lord Randolph Churchill in December 1886 (when he informed the editor of *The Times* at the same time as Lord Salisbury, the prime minister) up to the departure of the whole Treasury team under Peter Thorneycroft in January 1958.

Until about 25 years ago the spring Budget was the time when governments presented both tax and spending proposals to Parliament. Gladstone's four to five hour Budget speeches contained details of spending, then mainly on the army and navy, as well as tax

In times of economic crisis the importance of the Chancellor's 'second' budget has always increased

changes. But from the late 1960s the government began to publish an annual public spending White Paper a few months before the spring Budget, usually in December or January. This was intended to improve the planning of spending by Whitehall departments and local councils, though it meant an imbalance in decision-making.

Separately, the pressure of events was leading to second or even third economic statements each year. The economic crises of the 1970s often resulted in measures in the autumn to modify what had been announced the previous spring.

The practice of making major economic announcements in the autumn really developed during Denis Healey's years as Chancellor from 1974 until 1979. Almost every year in this period he had to announce further spending and tax measures in July and autumn statements. The best known package was in December 1976 after fraught negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, when its officials stayed in a Mayfair hotel under false names.

The Tories came to power in May 1979 determined to avoid such emergency packages. But they still had to announce public spending decisions for the following year in the autumn. This was formally recognised by the introduction of the Autumn Statement in 1982, which pulled together a series of then separate announcements, about spending plans for the next three years, national insurance con-

tributions, borrowing by nationalised industries, and the Treasury's economic forecasts which, by law, it has to publish twice a year. At roughly the same time, the government announces the annual updating of social security benefits and grants to local councils.

The statement has gradually evolved since then, but the basic political framework has remained the same. Each July, the cabinet considers what the guidelines should be for the annual round of Whitehall discussions. This is usually on the basis of a gloomy Treasury paper warning of upward pressures on spending. Bilateral negotiations between the Treasury and spending departments begin in earnest in September, building up to final decisions in late October or early November.

This is a time of leaks and rumours much beloved of political journalists. As Nigel Lawson records in his new memoirs *The View from Number 11*, various devices are then necessary to reconcile differences. On some occasions a minister has a private chat with the Chancellor; on others, when large sums and important policy issues are involved, the prime minister intervenes, usually on the side of the Treasury, while the other option has been to invoke an arbitration committee of ministers.

The so-called Star Chamber, named after the severe Tudor court, first met in 1982 under the chairmanship of Willie Whitelaw. Then the decisions, and, rarely, any outstanding issues, would be reported to the full Cabinet. Lord Lawson records how he always discussed with Margaret Thatcher the sequence in which she called ministers to speak. "It was important to open and close the discussions with comments from ministers who were dependable on public expenditure, leaving the less sound colleagues sandwiched in the middle — but not in a bunch, otherwise there was a risk of a



The cupboard is bare: Mr Lamont, Lord Lawson and Lord Healey, right, all found their budgets stretched

momentum building up. George Younger, the Scottish secretary, and subsequently defence secretary, was always a reliable opening batsman, and Willie Whitelaw was ideal at the end."

The system has been changed this year. First, the guidelines on overall spending were made an absolute limit, rather than being allowed to edge upwards, as often happened previously. Second, and most important, spending priorities were to be decided by a new committee of senior ministers, known as EOX, chaired by the Chancellor. This prepared a series

of options for consideration by the full cabinet. As Lord Lawson wrote, "all this was very much less new than the press imagined" since such a committee had been tried by Lord Howe before the invention of the Star Chamber.

If the Major government succeeds in holding down the bits of public spending, it will, Lord Lawson fairly suggests, "depend more on the united will and determination of three people, the chief secretary, the chancellor and the prime minister, than on any changes in the system".

This is anyway the last year when

spending and taxation will be considered separately. Mr Lamont has announced that, from December 1993, there will be a single annual statement combining tax proposals for the year ahead and spending plans for the next three years. That will ensure greater coherence so that both sides of the accounts can be considered together.

Inevitably perhaps, a December statement will mean that a Chancellor will be presented in the tabloids as either Father Christmas or Scrooge. Mr Lamont will today be lucky to escape being portrayed as the latter.

Lenders pin hopes on bold leadership

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

AN INTEREST rate cut could be the turning point in the housing market is waiting for, the doves could finally clear market could spring from its death bed, finally off the critical list.

Such are the views of estate agents canvassed yesterday about the effect that a 1 per cent cut in base rates would have if announced today by the Chancellor Norman Lamont. Sadly, neither analysts, lenders, nor economists or anyone else in the housing market shares their optimism. "It will do damn-all," says John Wriglesworth, a housing analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew. "It will have very little effect," says Stephen Bell, the chief economist at the merchant bank Morgan Grenfell.

The problem, Dr Wriglesworth says, is that the lending market already discounted a 1 per cent fall from current base rates of 8 per cent for new fixed-rate mortgage. "For the last month, it has been possible to get fixed rate mortgages of 7.5 per cent. Clever lenders are already giving house buyers the benefits of the expected cuts, with rates that fully reflect the expected rate reduction."

Yet the rush of buyers that might have been expected has failed to materialise. Although October sales levels are likely to be up on September, when prospective buyers were scared off by the sea-saw in interest rates after sterling's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism, the market has failed to pick up. "It is a little better, but not much," says Harry Hill, the managing director of Hambro Countrywide, one of the largest chains of estate agents.

Houses are now more affordable than they were and interest rates are at their lowest since 1972. If rates fall today by 1 per cent, lenders are expected to announce a 0.7 or 0.75 point cut in their variable rates. About 90 per cent of people with mortgages have variable rates. They are likely to benefit from January 1. New borrowers could expect the cuts immediately. Someone with a £60,000 mortgage could expect to save about £450 a year.

Those who are in jobs have seen their earnings steadily rise over the past four years. Average earnings in the fourth quarter of this year will be £18,132 compared with

£13,589 in the first quarter of 1989, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. House prices have fallen by about 20 per cent over the past three years.

Why then, are the buyers not flooding back? The reason is that buyers are not so bothered with affordability. They are scared they may lose their jobs. "Unemployment is the single biggest factor holding back the market, plus fear of further house price falls," Dr Wriglesworth says.

Interest rates have fallen steadily since 1989, when they were 15 per cent, to single figure levels today. Cuts alone will not restore confidence to the market.

What can the Chancellor do today? Bob Pannell, from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, says that the best remedy for the housing market will be a show of firm leadership from the Chancellor. "Any reduction in base rates needs to be combined with a sense

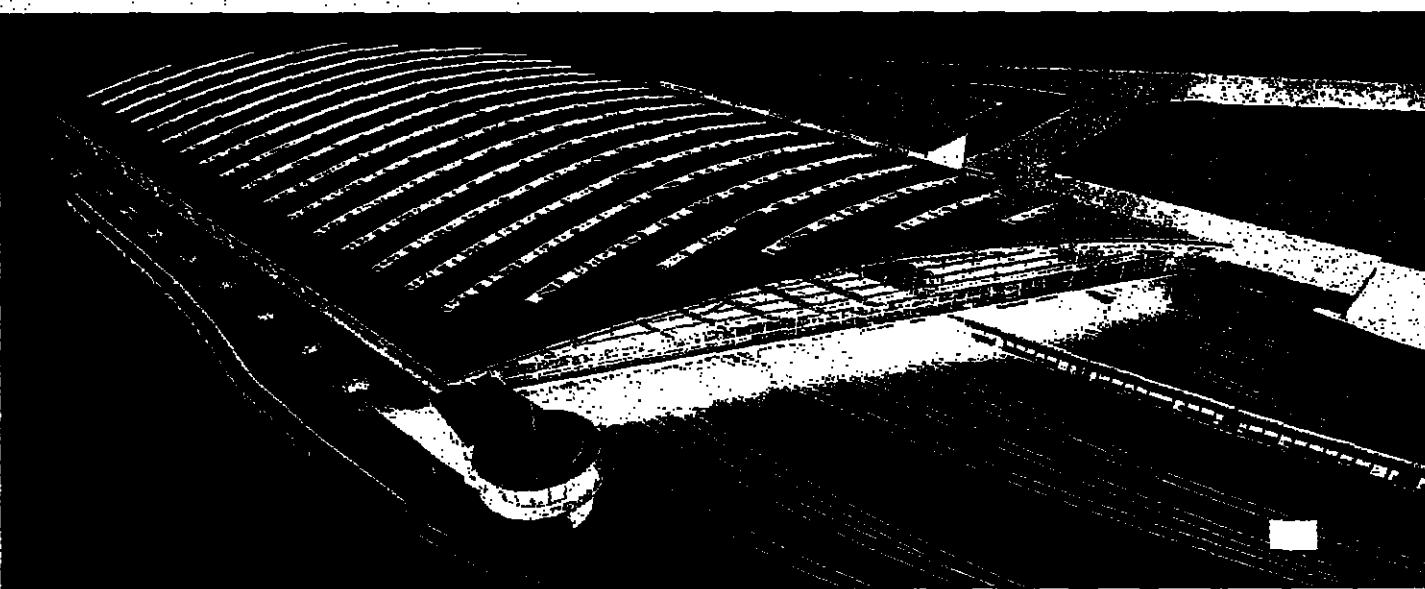
that Mr Lamont is taking fairly bold steps to lead the country out of recession," Mr Pannell says. The goodwill created by a fall in base rates, for example, could be counteracted by the unease and lack of confidence created by the rest of the Chancellor's spending plans. "If Mr Lamont fails to

carry the financial markets with him, and he gets a poor press generally for his plans, that would affect confidence and in turn affect the housing market."

Despite such pessimism, even the analysts and the economists admit that a base rate cut will help confidence, even if only to a small degree. In addition, the Autumn Statement may be combined with other housing measures, which though small in themselves could help confidence. Widely expected are measures to ease the path of housing associations to buy repossessed homes.

The optimism of the estate agents should not, however, be completely dismissed. Agents report, says Peter Cliff from the National Association of Estate Agents, that about 30 per cent of their buyers are now paying cash, buyers who would not therefore be reflected in lenders' analysis.

"The picture is far brighter than lenders or analysts would have you believe," Mr Cliff says. Mr Lamont must be hoping he is right.



Great expectations: a computer-generated impression of Stratford Market Depot, where the Jubilee line (below) will terminate

Expedient ride on the Jubilee line

MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

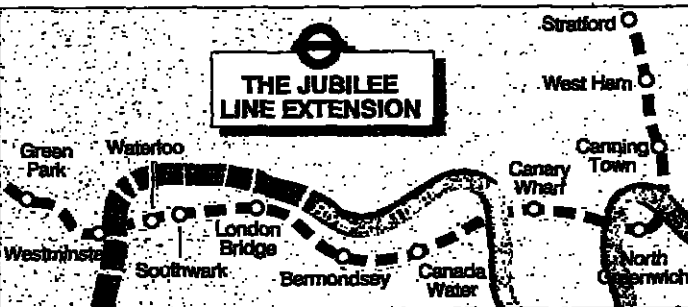
EXPECTATIONS of good times around the corner are running high among staff at London Transport's Broadway headquarters. After what must have seemed months of paralysing vacillation, the government is shortly expected to give the green light to the long-awaited £1.8-billion Jubilee line extension in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

Granting authority to proceed with the extension, which will run from Green Park in central London to Stratford in east London, via the troubled Canary Wharf development in Docklands, is now being seen by ministers as exactly the type of "big ticket" capital project needed to breathe life into a stagnant economy and help get Britain on the move again.

Few observers question the project's ability to provide a much needed fillip to the nation's flagging economic morale. Some 12,000 jobs will be created during the four and a half-year life of the scheme, mostly in the construction, engineering and electro-mechanical industries, all of which have been smarting from the effects of prolonged recession.

Nevertheless, some critics continue to express doubts about the wisdom of the original decision to build the Jubilee line extension, believing that the money could be better spent elsewhere. For them, the new line is the railway equivalent of Concorde — a project motivated more by political exigency than economic logic.

This, the critics insist, is particularly so since £1.65 billion has already been earmarked for new Docklands road schemes, together with another £800 million for the extension of the Docklands light railway, in an area where recession



and the collapse of property prices mean that promises of tens of thousands of new jobs are unlikely to materialise for years.

Why, they ask, should the government spend scarce taxpayers' money on a prestige project that will benefit a small number of Londoners (never mind helping to bail out the over-ambitious Canary Wharf development), when the money could be better spent modernising London Underground's existing network, which would benefit many more?

Understandably, London Underground officials see such talk as heresy, not least because money for capital projects does not grow on trees. They reject the critics' claims that the money could be spent more effectively elsewhere. For a start, work on all of the project's 14 key civil engineering and construction contracts is ready to begin within six months. No other scheme, whether modernisation or extension, would be ready for two or three years, they say.

During the present financial year, London Underground plans to spend about £680 million refurbishing trains, modernising lines, rebuilding stations, and repairing bridges, tunnels and drains. Officials hope this will increase to about £750 million during the next financial year, a figure which the 1991 Monopolies

and Mergers Commission report said was needed every year for ten years to bring the Underground system up to scratch.

Most of this work is carried out between one and five in the morning, when the Underground network is closed to the public, and at weekends, when bits of the system, such as stations and the occasional line, can be taken out of service. Consequently, London Underground could not accelerate its modernisation programme without causing considerable disruption to passengers and the capital as a whole since to do so would require closing lines and stations during working hours.

The critics are right to argue that the Jubilee line extension will not improve London's creaking transport system as much as other new schemes in the pipeline, such as the £1.8 billion Crossrail scheme between Paddington and Liverpool Street or the proposed Chelsea-Hackney line. But they are wrong to claim that they can be brought forward. Crossrail, which only began its parliamentary proceedings last year, is not expected to receive Royal Assent for another two years, while the design contracts have only just been let for Chelsea-Hackney.

But if London Underground cannot find a more efficient way of spending the Jubilee line extension

cash, there is no shortage of candidates who could. British Rail, for example, could put together a very convincing argument for the £1.8 billion to be used to shore up its own ailing investment programme.

Last year's Autumn Statement forecast that BR would need £1,360 million in loans and subsidy to keep the network running and the investment programme on target. But with BR's subsidy requirement expected to be well over £1,000 million again this year, largely to compensate for declining income from fares and the fall in income from property sales, that leaves precious little for investment.

According to Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, the railways have capital investment plans worth more than £1.6 billion during 1993-4. These include projects such as the new Networker fleet for commuter services between London and the Kent coast, the Thameslink 2000 scheme for through services between north and south London, and the modernisation of the antiquated London, Tilbury & Southend line — not to mention the £450 million that Network SouthEast must spend in the next 12 months just to keep the existing railway running.

However, London Underground is unlikely to be very impressed by any of these arguments. It has already spent almost £200 million on advance preparations for the Jubilee line extension, and fears that any further delay would undermine its credibility among the international construction and engineering companies that have spent millions of pounds tendering for Jubilee line contracts. As one official said yesterday: "If this project does not go ahead, it will give the signal to the world that London is a city going nowhere."

Where the axe might fall

THE Autumn Statement often confuses as much it clarifies. This is partly because it is phrased in Treasury language and partly because Chancellors also tend to make the best of their decisions and leave some of the bad news to the accompanying sheaf of documents which are released later. However, the main points to watch out for are:

The Treasury's economic forecasts will be much gloomier than the projection last March of a 1 per cent rise in gross domestic product, or total output, in 1992 compared with last year, and a 3 per cent rise in the year to the first half of 1993. Inflation should remain well under control.

The cabinet decided last July to hold public spending to the already announced limit of £244.5 billion for the 1993-94 financial year starting next April. In July, the Treasury estimated that this would still allow a 2.8 per cent growth in real terms compared with this year. Confusingly, definitions have been changed. This is likely to be consistent with the previous limit. If total spending is higher, it will be a big defeat for the Treasury and will worry the markets. Analysts will be watching for spending outside these limits.

A package to help industry has been promised. Apart from changes in the rules affecting private sector finance, temporary tax incentives may be announced to stimulate investment in manufacturing.

The most welcome news would be a cut, probably of at least one percentage point below the current 8 per cent, and, perhaps of two points. Mr Lamont is likely to want to announce a cut to offset tough spending measures.

Total pay bills are expected to rise by no more than 1.5 per cent. Mr Lamont will appeal for general pay restraint and may ask MPs to forego their agreed 3.9 per cent rise.

The health department was due to be allocated £30 billion for 1993-94. That would have permitted a rise of 3 per cent in real terms. This total will be affected by the squeeze on public sector pay.

The total is likely to rise above the existing planned total of £76 billion for next year because unemployment is much higher than previously assumed. Child benefit and retirement pensions are expected to be raised in line with prices, though income support, housing benefit and other means tested benefits may not be fully inflation proofed and there could be restrictions on claiming invalidity benefits.

Spending on education has risen sharply in recent years and John Patten, the education secretary, will be relieved if the planned total of £8.37 billion for next year remains intact.

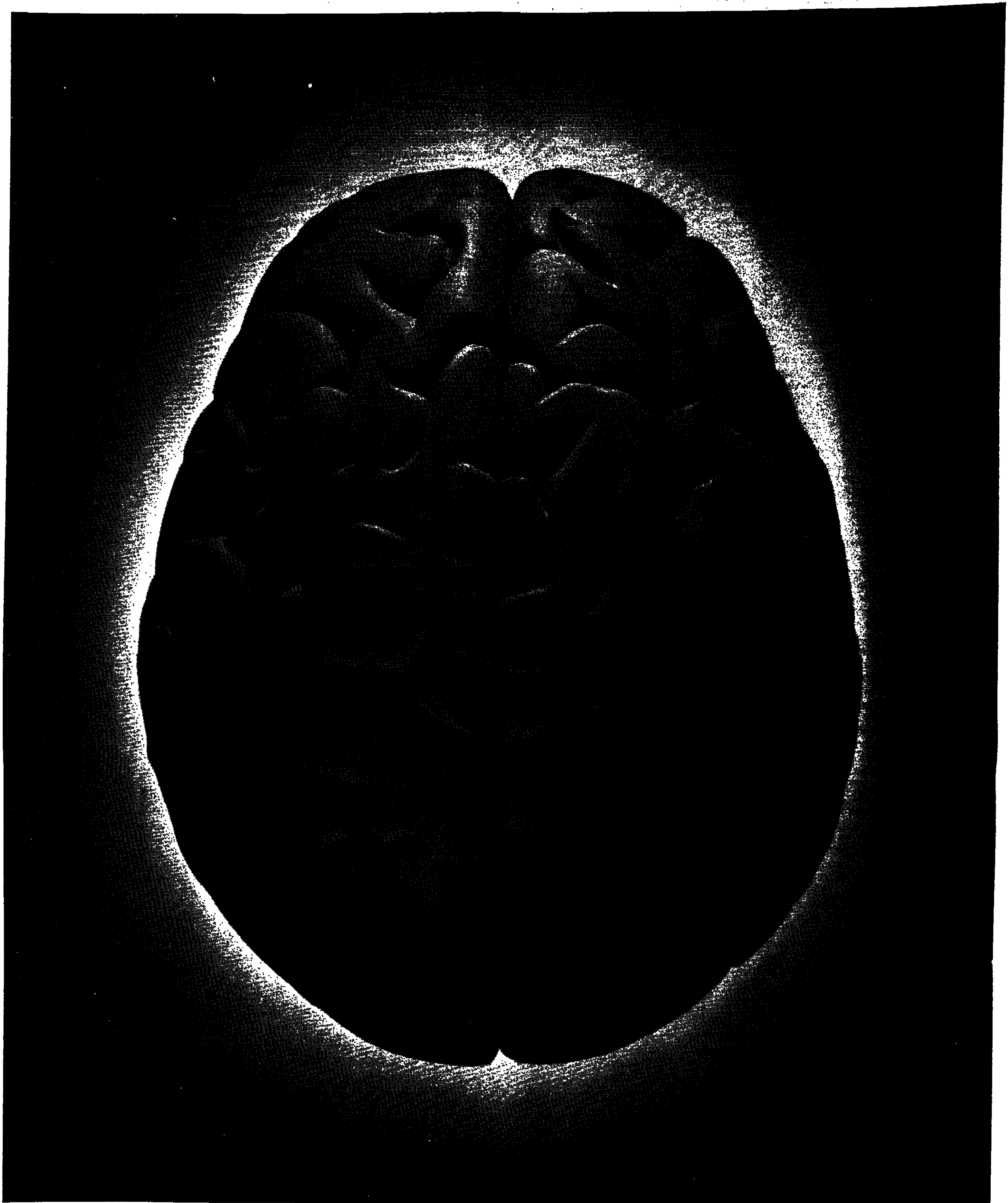
A cut in the planned total for next year of £24.5 billion is certain as defence will again be trimmed back.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, has been seeking to protect housing (£7.96 billion planned next year). The overall total of £32.5 billion planned for local government next year will be affected both by the squeeze on public sector pay and by the size of the transitional scheme to cover the switch from the poll tax to the council tax. Details of grants to councils will come later.

The upper and lower earnings limits for employees are usually raised in line with inflation. There has been speculation about a rise in contribution rates from the present 9 per cent.

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Clinton will overturn pro-Arab stance in Middle East talks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton administration will end President Bush's pro-Arab tilt and adopt an approach to the Middle East that offers much more robust support to Israel, the president-elect said in an interview published yesterday.

The incoming administration would make far more strenuous efforts than the Bush administration to prevent Arab nations such as Iraq and Iran from obtaining dual-use technologies and weapons of mass destruction, Bill Clinton told the Washington journal *Middle East Insight* four days before the presidential election.

He would take action to end the "illegal" Arab economic embargo against Israel, and cease pressuring Israel to make unilateral concessions in the Middle East peace talks. "A Clinton administration will treat the Arab-Israeli conflict as one in which the survival of Israel is at stake," he said.

In the same interview Mr

Clinton also warned Saddam Hussein that there would be no relaxation of US pressure on Iraq after his January 20 inauguration. Asserting that Saddam was still violating United Nations orders, he declared: "Saddam should not be mistaken about the resolve of all Americans and he needs to comprehend that we are strongly united to ensure his total compliance with the UN resolutions."

Mr Clinton stressed his support for the Middle East peace process, and pledged to "nurture it and maintain its continuity", but made little secret of where his sympathies lay.

He praised Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, for "breathing new life into the negotiations" but said "no side should be expected to make unilateral concessions". Israeli settlements in the occupied territories were an obstacle to peace, he said, but so were the Arab trade boycott of Israel,

Arab non-recognition of Israel and Arab military build-ups. It was, he added, now "time for the Arabs to make more moves towards Israel".

Mr Clinton also pledged to act to stop the spread of dangerous missiles in the Middle East and to keep weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of nations such as Iran, Iraq, Syria and Libya.

Saudi Arabia will remain a country of strategic interest to the US, but a Clinton administration will seek to promote human rights there and elsewhere in the Middle East. The US, he said, "must not ignore any country's human rights abuses".

Speaking more generally about the Middle East peace process, Mr Clinton said there had to be a "foundation of trust among former enemies based on normal economic relations and multilateral agreements on issues such as water and environment".



Painted lady: detail of Henri Matisse's "L'Asie", created by the artist in Venice in 1946, which was sold in Sotheby's New York auction yesterday for \$11 million (£7.2 million). The buyer was the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth

Border tension will not affect talks

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM AND ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

ISRAEL moved tank reinforcements into southern Lebanon yesterday for a possible showdown with pro-Iranian Hezbollah militiamen, but Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, said the border tensions would not affect the Middle East peace talks.

"I don't think that we or the Arabs will transfer responsibility for the talks into the hands of Hezbollah," Mr Peres said. "You must act against Hezbollah with the appropriate means while conducting the peace process among the sides that are interested in peace."

However, a row erupted in Ottawa yesterday, delaying the talks on the plight of refugees, when Israel objected to the inclusion of one member of the Palestinian delegation. The Israelis said they would walk out if Muhammad Hallaj, a member of the Palestine National Council — the Palestinian parliament in exile — took part. Israel regards the council as an adjunct of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, with whom they refuse to negotiate. Conference sources said Mr Hallaj was refusing to step aside.

Convoys of tanks, troop carriers and guns streamed into south Lebanon during the morning after cabinet ministers and top generals met in Jerusalem to consider a response to the Hezbollah attacks with Katyusha rockets this week. They followed an Israeli air raid against Hezbollah targets on Sunday.

Normally terse army officers gave wide publicity to the deployment, apparently hoping the show of force alone would deter Hezbollah. "If there is an escalation from Hezbollah's side by using more Katyushas today or tonight I believe there will not be any more talk," one officer said. Hundreds of cars jammed the highway to Beirut as the local press warned of a full-scale invasion of southern Lebanon.

□ Gaza Strip: Israeli troops shot dead three Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday. The first was shot during an army undercover ambush of an armed guerrilla group and the two others during a march hours later to protest against the first killing. An Israeli soldier and nine other Palestinians were wounded during the clashes.

Paralysed Angola stands on brink of renewed civil war

FROM SAM KILEY IN LUENA, ANGOLA

AFTER 16 years of fighting and 17 months of uneasy peace, Angola once more stands on the edge of civil war. The country has been paralysed since Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) troops attacked the airport in the capital, Luanda, last week and the government responded by wiping out most of the rebels stationed there.

Yesterday, with the port cities of Lobito and Benguela besieged by Unita, both sides were observing an uneasy truce while Marrack Goulding, head of the United Nations peace-keeping operations, attempted to broker a ceasefire agreement with Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, in his temporary headquarters in Huambo.

Also yesterday, the government demanded the rebels disarm immediately to avert a resumption of full-scale civil war.

In a state radio broadcast marking the 17th anniversary

of the ruling MPLA he deteriorated. In the past few days the MPLA has launched a propaganda war on Unita in an attempt to win greater international support and paint the rebels as the lone belligerents and itself as the legitimate government of the country.

João Ernesto dos Santos, governor of Moxico province in Luena, the local capital and a symbolic city where the last battle of the civil war was fought, repeated a typical MPLA mantra when he said: "They had 15 months to plant manioc. Unita and their families did nothing to help themselves, so why should we allow them to be fed now? They can starve for all I care."

Mr dos Santos, though, is not in much of a position to lay down the law far beyond the door of his modest detached bungalow. Dr Savimbi's rebels have helped themselves to eight of the nine municipal districts of Moxico, a desiccated province of Angola's southeast, and much of the rest of the country, in the past two weeks.

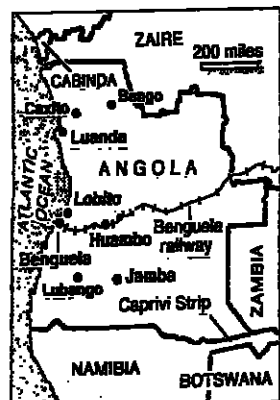
The first part of the war of words began after Unita mobilised its troops and took about half the land area of the country, leaving governors in charge only of the provincial capitals in Huila, Cuando Cubango, Uige, Moxico, Bie, Malanje and Cuanza Norte. Then the government accused South Africa of backing Unita with mercenaries, and flying military hardware to the rebel headquarters in Jamba.

R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister who last month attempted to mediate between Dr Savimbi and the government, has now been declared persona non grata in the country. Many diplomats believe the expulsion of the South African ambassador to Angola is imminent, although there has been no proof of any recent South African support for Dr Savimbi.

The second stage came yesterday in Luanda where the government published documents, captured from its attacks on Unita offices in the city, which it alleged showed a plot to launch a military coup. Close inspection, however, revealed contingency plans for Unita to respond to an attack upon them, as well as largely fulfilled plans to take over many of the provinces.

Unita soldiers and their families are still occupying camps in Luena set up to demobilize them as part of last year's failed peace accords with the MPLA. Unita has also seized major diamond areas along the Cuando River in Lunda-Sol.

Here, the rebels were allowed to stay in Saurimo, the capital, after the governor decided that, as a major centre for illicit diamond trading, economic prosperity lay with maintaining the status quo in a region so flush already that few have any problem meeting the \$15 bill for a chicken.



sary of Angola's independence from Portugal the government said that Unita was plunging the country back into devastation. "Unita must immediately desist from all its military movements and be disarmed," it said.

The UN talks show little prospect of succeeding. MPLA hardliners are, according to Western diplomats, preparing to declare a new government based on the results of September's general elections, which gave the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola a clear majority in the 223-seat legislative assembly.

A Western diplomat said yesterday: "If they go ahead, that will be taken as a signal to Unita that the MPLA is not serious about peace negotiations and wants to take them on once and for all. Then neither side will win and the country will remain paralysed much as it did during the 16 years of civil war."

"It is very important to keep the avenues for compromise open but the government is closing them very fast, while Unita feels isolated and cheated by the presidential elections (which showed a first-round victory for President Jose Eduardo dos Santos)."

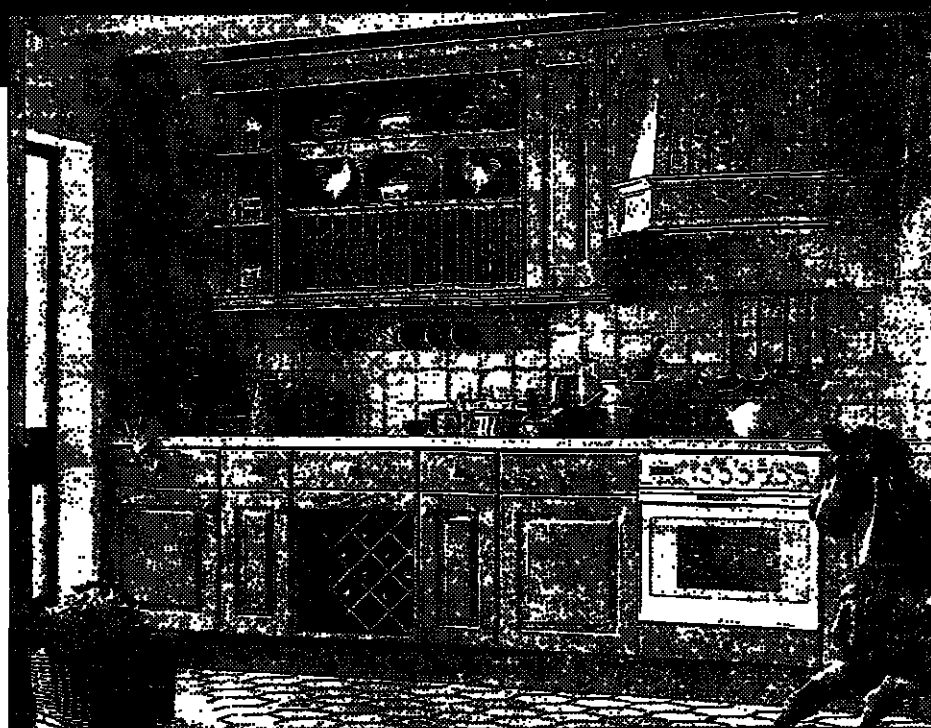
Since the elections, which Dr Savimbi says were rigged, relations between the rebel Unita group and

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British U-turn compounds the Community's nightmares



Waigel: talked about a new monetary zone

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

AS John Major flew in to the European Community's Maastricht summit last December, an American newspaper carried a cartoon of the prime minister arriving to board an aircraft with a parachute strapped to his back. "Welcome to United European Airlines," says the stewardess. "Would you prefer a seat by the window or in the aisle?" "Next to the door, please," Mr Major replies. After the abrupt announcement that the Maastricht treaty on political and economic union would not be ratified by the House of Commons before next May at the earliest, once again Britain is seen by most of its European Community partners as the country ready

to jump from the EC at any second.

At yesterday's Anglo-German summit, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, expressed understanding for the British delay in ratifying Maastricht. But President Mitterrand of France unleashed a fresh fever of speculation that the Community was about to split into at least two duques by his fierce attack on Britain's "unacceptable" foot-dragging this week.

Mr Major is trapped in the same role inside the EC played with such relish over many years by Margaret Thatcher, the national leader unable to leave but who is always bringing up the rear when the rest move forward. In the EC of the 1990s, there is no more distracting diversion than bashing British reticence over

□ Mitterrand's outburst could mean Euro-visionaries are losing the argument. But Britain's pragmatists are also trapped

European union. The Community's multiplying nightmares, however, are more complicated than a simple dilemma over whether or when to stop indulging laggardly Britain and Denmark. Europe's malaise is as sour and deep as it is because the ten states likely to ratify Maastricht by the end of this year neither see how the EC can be split cleanly nor relish the prospect of making "two-speed Europe" irrevocable. "You can work out any number of schemes for a Community of two — or more — speeds," an EC diplomat said.

"But the question is: will the majority have the nerve?" The answer to that question depends on France and Germany, whose collaboration at every level of government gave the EC its original momentum. The events of the past two years have all but destroyed the French dream of mastering the mark, although Paris has turned socialism upside down to try to match the performance of the mark. The Maastricht negotiations established that any European single currency would be run on strict monetarist lines approved by the

German Bundesbank. German popular protest against the planned loss of the mark has almost certainly cancelled the treaty's key clauses that lay down an automatic timetable for monetary union.

The only possible unanimity on a single currency allowed a fast-track group to accelerate away from the weaker economies. So the draftsmen injected the dangerous disease of variable speeds into the EC's bloodstream: the infection is now raging as both Germans and Danes demand exemption from monetary union.

The same treaty might never be managed again, even if reluctant Britain and Denmark were taken out of the equation. Only three states could dive straight into currency merger on the treaty's terms and that trio excludes

Germany. Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, has talked about a monetary union of the original EC six (Germany, France, Italy and the Benelux countries) plus strong-currency Denmark, Austria and Switzerland. But that would amount to a zone composed of Germany's export markets and dominated by the mark. France loathes the idea.

The prospect of a long period of fractious "Euro sclerosis" after the collapse of the treaty inhibits the Continent's leaders from attacking Mr Major with the fury that they feel. The French, German, Italian and Belgian governments are shaky and nervous of taking risks with their disgruntled voters.

They have hooked their prestige to the success of a

treaty that they have neither the appetite nor the influence to change. They fear that Maastricht will unravel further while Britain and Denmark creep towards ratifications that may take another year to finish.

Mr Major's sudden tying of British ratification to another Maastricht referendum in Denmark has transformed the European political scene. Before his U-turn, the majority had a reasonable chance of squeezing Denmark back into the fold. Two recalcitrant states encouraging each other reduces Maastricht's chances of survival.

Continental ministers watch, powerless, as their weakened British counterparts slide from one banana skin to another, taking the treaty with them.

Major wins German ally in war with his Maastricht critics

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN Major won powerful support yesterday from Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, in his battle with his critics over the proposed delay to the ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

Herr Kohl said yesterday he understood and sympathised with the decision, which he said was one for Britain to make and which he clearly respected. He had every confidence that Mr Major would ensure that the treaty was ratified. The important thing for Germany was that it was not changed.

In a press conference that reflected a spirit of renewed harmony after a one day Anglo-German summit at Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire, Herr Kohl dismissed reports that his government was unhappy at the prime minister's decision. It would be a bad policy, he said, if European Community leaders exploited each other's internal difficulties.

Mr Major said he did not expect the bill to clear the committee stage before May, the likely date of the Danish

referendum. He gave a categorical assurance, however, that Maastricht would be ratified within the present parliamentary session.

Blaming the Labour party for nearly scuttling the treaty, he predicted a slow and laborious passage through Parliament because, he said, he would have to win the argument in the House. He rejected any suggestion that his troubles over Maastricht and other domestic crises had weakened his hand in negotiations within the EC.

Herr Kohl said that few could have predicted ten years ago that Europe would be ratifying a treaty that, he insisted, "really pulls the people of Europe together". "If the United Kingdom has asked, for its own reasons, please give us a few months' time, why should I criticise the prime minister?" He was confident the British people knew their future lay in Europe.

He agreed that a solution must be found to the Danish question, one of the main issues discussed at yesterday's summit and said Germany

wanted to move into the future with all the Community states. "It is not our object to create a Community of two or three speeds, but we do not want a Europe à la carte."

The chancellor flatly denied that Bonn had put any pressure on the French government over the Gatt trade talks, or that Mr Major had asked him to do so. "We are both convinced of the same thing — which is largely shared by our French friends — that we need a successful completion of the Gatt round."

He said it would be unthinkable if Europe withdrew into a fortress mentality. It needed free world trade. Germany was prepared for a compromise and was not blaming anyone for the failure to reach one. France was an agricultural exporter and had problems, but he was against pillorying France.

It seemed clear from Mr Major's satisfaction that there had been widespread agreement between the two leaders that the talks must be resumed with a view to swift agreement with the Americans over the vexed farm differences, whatever the French objections. Britain considered it vital that there should be calm discussion, not sabbat rattling.

Mr Major also said the rich countries owed it to the developing world not to delay a deal. Official aid to poorer countries would double if Gatt trade liberalisation goes ahead.

Mr Major and Herr Kohl made a determined effort to emphasise areas of agreement on a range of policies and give a visible demonstration of new-found trust and amity. Herr Kohl referred several times to the easy relationship he had with Mr Major, whom he invariably called John, the warmth of yesterday's meeting and Germany's gratitude for the Queen's recent state visit, especially the fact that she had spent most of her time in former East Germany.

Mr Major said that the talks had been valuable preparation for the Edinburgh summit. He also was pleased at progress made by the two home affairs ministers on Europol, the Community project to intensify police co-operation.

Major's success, page 1
Leading article and
Letters, page 21



Let us forget: President Mitterrand and General Michel Grignon, military governor of Paris, review an Armistice day parade on the Champs-Élysées

Gatt talks head for new round

BY GEORGE BROCK

TALKS between European Community and American negotiators to try to settle the long-running farm-subsidy dispute threatening to start a transatlantic trade war are likely to resume in America next week.

In the fortnight since the last round of talks the EC's position briefly disintegrated, but it has been rebuilt. The four members of the European Commission who negotiated on behalf of the EC's 12 governments buried their differences yesterday in an agreed call for immediate talks on the remaining matters in dispute between the two sides that continue to hold up a new world trade treaty.

The EC negotiating team

will be led again by Ray MacSharry, the EC farm commissioner, who withdrew last week after alleging improper interference by Jacques Delors, the commission's president. M Delors' previously forthright objections to a deal have now been toned down. The French government, apparently fearing desertion by German ministers, who have lost patience with the Paris administration, has also adopted a lower profile.

Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), arrives in Brussels today for talks with the Community side before seeing American trade negotiators. Mr Dunkel says he will not be

mediating between the EC and America but representing the views of all 108 Gatt states hoping to complete a new world treaty covering not only farm subsidies but also textiles, services and patents. Officials representing the incoming Clinton administration are to be briefed on next week's talks as they happen.

German sources say that Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, has become convinced that Europe should strike a Gatt deal before a trade war starts and before President Bush leaves office in January. Co-ordinating his approach with that of the British presidency of the EC, Herr Kohl apparently has asked Washington for a little additional flexibility.

Bush weeps as he hands leadership of party to Dole

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush was overcome by emotion as he delivered his first speech since his election defeat and passed the leadership of the Republican party to Robert Dole, the man he defeated for the 1988 presidential nomination.

During a dinner for 160 leading Republicans, Mr Bush had to avert his head and brush away tears as colleagues assured him that history would remember him kindly. He made little attempt to disguise his depression. He admitted he had not wanted to come to what he feared would be a "wake".

He spoke of the "hurtfulness" and the "enormity" of his defeat, and of the "distress" and "anguish" it had caused him. Three times he lamented his failure to get his administration's achievements "into focus" during the campaign.

Mr Bush readily acknowledged his defeat has left Mr Dole, the Senate minority leader, Washington's most powerful Republican. He praised Mr Dole for his loyalty despite their acrimonious 1988 primary confrontations.

Mr Dole's combative performance since the election had "shown where the leadership really is now in this country in terms of party".

Mr Dole, 69, also choked with emotion as he praised Mr Bush. "Just as I know that you changed the world, I also know the best man didn't win on election day," said the Kansas senator.

"History is going to be very kind to you and to your administration," said Dan Quayle, who described his vice-presidency as "the best four years of my life" and said it was now time "to move on, mow the grass or whatever life after the Senate and life after being vice-president will be".

Mr Bush yesterday invited Bill and Hillary Clinton to visit the White House before the Arkansas governor's inauguration on January 20, and has instructed a friend to find a suitable new home for himself and Barbara Bush in Houston, Texas. Mr Bush telephoned Mr Clinton while he flew to Florida on Air Force One for five days' fishing.

Mr Clinton yesterday delivered his first speech as president-elect to an Arkansas Veterans Day ceremony, and will today give his first press conference, but for the most part the man who was so ubiquitous during the campaign has stayed in virtual

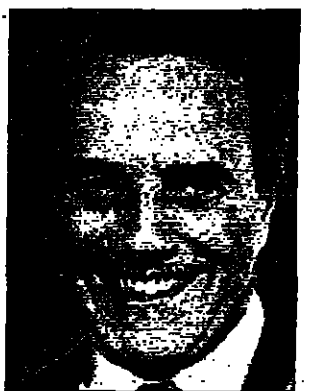
seclusion since the election. He has left the Arkansas governor's mansion periodically to jog, visit friends or visit the cinema, but on each occasion has been besieged by the media. He lost his temper at the weekend when photographers pursued him on the golf course.

Mr Clinton has for the most part been working on transition plans but to date he has made only two appointments to his transition team, though further announcements are expected today. Even his senior campaign aides know little about his thinking and are still anxiously waiting to hear if they will get White House jobs.

At daily briefings in Little Rock George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's communications director, feeds minuscule scraps of information to the news-starved media such as which foreign leaders the president-elect has spoken to that morning. Boris Yeltsin's aides in Moscow were far more forthcoming about the actual contents of the two men's conversation last Thursday than Mr Clinton's.

The president-elect is said to be determined to make decisions slowly but correctly, and intends to announce his first cabinet appointments early next month. That is in line with his predecessors. Mr Bush appointed James Baker Secretary of State within days, but Ronald Reagan made his first appointment on December 11, Jimmy Carter on December 3 and John Kennedy on December 1.

□ Fed support: Key Federal Reserve Board officials would not object if Mr Clinton uses increased public spending to stimulate economic growth. *The Washington Post* said yesterday.



Dole: most powerful Republican now

Fear still dominates island on massacre anniversary

Jakarta rejects poll on East Timor

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

INDONESIA has rejected any suggestion of a referendum on independence for East Timor on the first anniversary of the massacre of more than 100 people in the Dili cemetery.

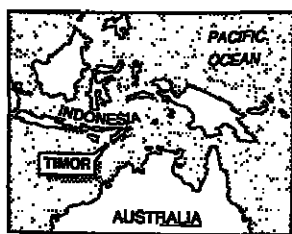
The Indonesian army shot Timorese mourners on November 12 last year as they laid wreaths in memory of those killed in an earlier incident. In a macabre postscript, the territory's new governor was quoted as saying he believed that all 1,000 demonstrators should have been killed.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 after the departure of Portugal's colonial administration. It annexed the territory a year later and has since been sporadically fighting Fretilin guerrillas seeking independence. The United Nations does not recognise the annexation and has urged Jakarta to grant an act of self-determination.

Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the former Indonesian foreign minister and a member of the supreme advisory council to President Suharto, speaking in Singapore yesterday, said: "It is basically a Portuguese problem, not an Indonesian problem."

UN-sponsored talks between Lisbon and Jakarta are to start on December 17. The Portuguese urged the European Community to put pressure on Jakarta, but that was largely side-tracked by Britain, which values its trading relationship with Jakarta, trade that includes new contracts for Hawk fighter-bomber aircraft.

Fear has dominated East Timor for weeks after continuous house-to-house searches to prevent any kind of demonstration. Residents have been warned not to mark the anniversary, even by placing wreaths in the cemetery. The territory is under the



command of Brigadier General Theo Syafel and Abilio Jose Osorio Soares, an equally tough governor, who said when asked if the killings had had a negative effect: "As far as I'm concerned, I think far more should have died ... Why not all the one thousand?"

Today, as East Timorese again mourn their dead, the territory is largely sealed off. No diplomats, parliamentarians or tourists are allowed to visit the island.

Little information has leaked since July when it was reported that hundreds had been arrested, while many

more remained unaccounted for. Within the past month members of the European parliament and Australian MPs were refused permission to visit East Timor.

According to activists monitoring the territory, up to 1,000 people may have been arrested in recent sweeps. If demonstrations take place, they probably will remain unknown: clandestine sources that have been leaking information have dried up.

□ Hong Kong: Legislators, ending a marathon debate on Chris Patten's reform plans, gave a narrow mandate yesterday for the governor to widen democracy in the British colony before its return to China.

Offering its first collective response to the plans, strongly rejected by Peking, the legislative council voted for a motion calling for "openness, fairness and acceptability to the people of Hong Kong" in talks with China over their future. *(Reuters)*

Detroit suspends police

BY BEN MACINTYRE

STANLEY Knox, Detroit's chief of police, has suspended without pay seven police officers, six white and one black, after a black motorist, Malice King, 35, died last Thursday of his injuries on the way to hospital. He had been stopped and allegedly beaten by police.

The death has enraged inhabitants of Detroit and community leaders say that only swift action by city authorities has prevented riots in this predominantly black city where the problems of poverty and alienation are no less acute than in South Central Los Angeles.

Coleman Young, the city's black mayor elected nearly 20 years ago on a promise to integrate Detroit's overwhelming white police force and stamp out police brutality said: "I have worked too long and too hard to have something like this happen."

Reluctant US Navy agrees to take back homosexual sailor

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE United States Navy has agreed reluctantly to comply with a court temporary injunction requiring the reinstatement of a homosexual sailor sacked three months ago.

In delivering his interim judgment, Judge Terry Hatter, a Californian district court judge, said he was likely to find the military's ban on gay servicemen and women unconstitutional. The Pentagon bans homosexuals from serving in the armed forces as "contrary to good discipline".

But Bill Clinton, the president-elect, has promised that he will issue an executive order ending that prohibition. Giving the authorities until 8am today to restore Petty Officer Keith Meinhold to his former job as a sonar crew instructor, Judge Hatter told lawyers for the navy: "This is not a military dictatorship, this is not the former Soviet socialist republic." He added

that he tended to agree with PO Meinhold's lawyers that the discharge of homosexuals was "in violation of the US constitution".

In a terse statement, the navy agreed to comply with the order, saying that PO Meinhold would be reinstated in his old job at Moffett Field naval air station in northern California today. PO Meinhold, who had served for 12 years, was discharged in August three months after making his homosexuality public during an evening television news programme.

Judge Hatter first issued a temporary injunction last Friday requiring PO Meinhold's reinstatement while the merits of his case were considered. He gave as his reason a technicality in the government's presentation of its defence. But when the sailor reported for duty on Monday, a legal officer handed him a letter stating that local com-

manders had not been authorised to reinstate him. Lawyers acting for the navy have argued that reinstating PO Meinhold "flies in the face of present military policy, rules and regulations designed to promote military order and discipline, morale and combat effectiveness".

In his ruling, Judge Hatter told the navy's lawyers that if PO Meinhold were not reinstated in his former job by this morning, he would hold the government in contempt and bar it from filing any further papers in the case. That would prevent the government from defending itself against PO Meinhold's action. New legal motions brought by him would have to go uncontested.

The justice department in Washington told *The New York Times* that the department was "studying the judge's order and considering our options".

UK troops begin race against winter to set up Bosnia base

FROM MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT
IN SPLIT

BRITISH troops yesterday began a race to move 500 vehicles through the mountains to their base in central Bosnia before winter comes.

Forty-five Warriors and other armoured vehicles arrived at Split early yesterday packed bumper-to-bumper on the 19,689-tonne Danish cargo ship *Rosa Dan*. The 30-tonne Warrior infantry fighting vehicles were unloaded in pouring rain, boding ill for the condition of the route through the mountains to Vitez.

A Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship, the *Argus*, is due at Split next Wednesday carrying four Sea King helicopters for casualty evacuation. The decision to send helicopters was taken after it was realised that it would be unwise to rely on armoured ambulances as the only means of removing British casualties to a field surgical hospital.

The British vehicles which arrived yesterday also including 10-tonne Scimitars, will set off, about 15 at a time, in the early hours tomorrow after they have had a maintenance check at Tomislavgrad, one of two British forward logistic bases. Military police have

■ Soldiers face a gruelling journey. A wrong turning could prove fatal

marked the route to make sure nobody takes a possibly fatal wrong turning.

Tomislavgrad, a garrison town for hundreds of Croatian HVO soldiers, is within extreme range of Serbian artillery fire. There are reports that a Serbian observation post has been seen in the hills to the north of the town.

The British camp, which is presently shared with Croat workers, consists of large warehouses that have been turned into supply stores, accommodation for engineers and vehicle-repair workshops.

The first Warriors are expected to arrive at the school where the British headquarters has been set up in Vitez late tomorrow. A company of 15 Warriors will stay at Gornji Vakuf, the second of the British forward bases.

At Vitez, Royal Engineers are building a 200-man tented camp to receive the Infantry of The Cheshire Regiment, 9th/12th Lancers and Royal Irish Regiment.

The British battalion group at Vitez will be operational by next Tuesday, when it will

come under the tactical command of General Philippe Morillon, the French officer who will lead the 7,000 UN Protection Force troops in Bosnia from its headquarters at Kiseljak, about 20 miles of twisting mountainous road west of Sarajevo. General Morillon, however, has said he will not move from his present headquarters in Sarajevo until he has succeeded in arranging a demilitarised zone in the Bosnian capital.

Up to 1,500 Croat and Muslim refugees allowed to leave Sarajevo through Serbian lines after seven hours of delay at a checkpoint, arrived at Kiseljak last night. The refugees, mostly women and children, are to leave for Split later today and are expected to cross the border to safety tomorrow, perhaps passing the British military vehicles going the other way.

The refugees, in 25 buses, were part of a convoy of 6,000 leaving Sarajevo after agreement was reached with the Serbs. The next phase of the exit from the capital was held up yesterday. The Croatian Red Cross in Split said that the 1,500 refugees in Kiseljak all had papers for transit either to Czechoslovakia or to stay in Croatia if they are Croats with relatives here.

The delay, at the Serbian line at Ilja outside Sarajevo, brought anxious waiting for the refugees and the Red Cross, which had organised the evacuation, lest the Serbs should order the Muslims off the buses. In the end, after their papers were minutely scrutinised, the refugees were allowed through the checkpoint.

The Red Cross said they would be housed temporarily in the sports stadium in Split, where they would be fed and given time to rest before leaving for Czechoslovakia.

There was more drama in Sarajevo when a bus full of refugees bound for Belgrade was unable to leave the capital because no driver would take them through the Serb lines. A volunteer was eventually found and he drove more than 300 refugees to Belgrade in two separate runs.

A shooting incident outside the federal army club in the centre of Pristina early yesterday increased the already high tension, fuelling fears that Serbia's troubled Kosovo province could be the next to erupt. □ London: Yesterday's Anglo-German summit at Ditchley Park in Oxfordshire expressed



Colour party: soldiers of The Cheshire and Royal Irish Regiments arriving with their armoured vehicles in the Croatian port of Split yesterday. The troops must move the 500 vehicles to their camp at Vitez before snowfalls render the mountain roads impassable

Doughty dozen get aid through

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN METKOVIĆ

THE British lorry drivers had already decided to turn back from their relief mission when the mortar rounds began exploding beside their vehicles, prompting a hasty retreat.

"We had to ditch the trailers, turn around and get out of there in a hurry. The shells were landing on the roadside," Bob Thomas, 39, from Hornchurch, Essex, said. "They were probably warning shots because no one was hurt," he added, recounting the incident on Saturday as though it was a nasty crash on the M4.

It is a telling comment about the dozen British lorry drivers who carry out one of the most precarious jobs in the former Yugoslavia, that they avoided any publicity about their latest ambush, while a similar incident the same day involving British troops further to the north made headline news. The sang-froid is attributable to

their experiences over the past three months of intense fighting in Bosnia, where the drivers have run almost daily relief missions to some of the worst affected areas of fighting, particularly Sarajevo.

"People get over-excited about the times we have run into trouble; it is just part of the job," said Jerry Seymour, 55, from Chelmsford, Essex, who carried out similar relief work for the Kurds more than a year ago. "We are not soldiers, just ordinary people who were out of work back home, had to pay the mortgage and were prepared to do something a little unusual."

He said that many volunteers could not cope with the pressures of the three-month contract, but that some unlikely drivers had thrived at their work. For instance, John Dunn, a former gifts dealer who was laid off from his job in the City last year, got his heavy goods vehicle licence in

February and is now a trusted member of the team.

For all their modesty, the lorry drivers are widely regarded by aid workers as fulfilling one of the most important tasks in getting food, clothing and medicine to war-torn areas of central Bosnia before the onset of winter. Although much attention has been focused on the airlift of goods into Sarajevo airport, one fully laden lorry can carry 15 tonnes of supplies, the same as a military transport plane. Each convoy of ten lorries that makes it through is the equivalent of ten relief flights by a Hercules transport.

The Britons have also succeeded in making some personal contributions to the effort. Most notable is Ray Milton, who is mobbed by the children of one particular village outside Sarajevo where he is greeted with chants of "Milton Chocolate"

before he dispenses his extensive supply of sweets.

However, there is growing concern among the drivers that their weeks of effort in establishing themselves as impartial volunteers could be jeopardised if the recently arrived British soldiers engage in any fighting. They pointed out that the changing alliances of the various groups in Bosnia made the war extremely unpredictable and that their work could proceed only under strict neutrality.

"Normally in wars you know who is fighting who, but here there are so many armed groups that you never know where to expect trouble," Mr Seymour said. "If the British kill someone and we drive through the village the next day, we would be easy targets. This is the only armour we have on our trucks," he added, poking the flimsy canvas cover over his lorry.



West ready to tighten its watch on Danube

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WESTERN powers are drafting plans to tighten United Nations sanctions on the Serb-led rump of Yugoslavia by inspecting vessels entering the country via the Danube and possibly stopping and searching ships in the Adriatic.

Britain, France and the United States are preparing the new security council resolution, which is likely to be adopted on Monday, because of concerns about violations of the present UN embargo on the Yugoslav rump state comprising Serbia and Montenegro. It has been able to import about half the oil it imported before UN sanctions were imposed five months ago, keeping key industries running.

Oil has been entering Serbia and Montenegro illegally through Bulgaria and possibly Romania and at least one Greek tanker has unloaded a cargo of oil at the Montenegrin port of Bar on the Adriatic. There is also concern that goods marked for shipment across Serbia and Montenegro to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia are being diverted on Yugoslav territory in violation of the UN sanctions.

The new resolution will make clear that Bulgaria and Romania have a duty to stop and search vessels travelling to Yugoslavia down the Danube even though it is, by treaty, an international waterway. Most vessels on the route come from Russia or Ukraine.

Romania had been reluctant to stop vessels on the

Danube, but Western diplomats say its efforts have improved in recent weeks and will be welcomed in the new resolution which, however, will not guarantee an end to sanction-breaking traffic down the Danube. It leaves inspection to Yugoslavia's neighbours rather than stationing international monitors along the river.

The new resolution will also tighten procedures for the trans-shipment of goods across Serbia and Montenegro, banning trans-shipment altogether when security council members cannot be convinced that the goods will reach their final destination.

France is pressing for the new resolution to authorise Western warships now in the Adriatic to stop and search ships suspected of sanctions-breaking instead of merely monitoring their movements. Britain is willing to back the idea, but the United States is still debating what would amount to its first, albeit limited, military commitment in the Yugoslav conflict.

The security council has also approved the stationing of 75 military observers at airports in the former Yugoslavia and says it will enforce a no-fly zone if combatants fly warplanes over the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A resolution, adopted by a unanimous 15-0 vote, states the council's determination to "consider urgently, in case of violations... the further measures necessary to enforce the ban on military flights".



Mladic: "Croat regulars did not sign ceasefire"

a cautious welcome for the recently announced ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina. (Our Foreign Staff writes). General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Serb forces in Bosnia, said yesterday that the ceasefire agreement, although signed by Serbs, Muslims, Croats and UN officials, had not been signed by the Croat regular army and this was a possible obstacle to its implementation.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, responding at Ditchley to mainly German demands that other European countries should take in more refugees from the former Yugoslavia, said that Britain had now expressed willingness to take up to 500 families.

Chechens prepare for war

FROM BRUCE CLARK
IN MOSCOW

A POWERFUL Muslim warlord from the Caucasus mountains called on his fighters last night to be ready for combat with Russia, despite Moscow's forces pulling back from a potential area of conflict.

Yusup Soslanbekov, one of the leaders of the shadowy Confederation of Caucasian Peoples which has sent thousands of volunteers to fight alongside the Abkhazian minority in Georgia, accused Russia of aggression.

Russian troops entered his self-proclaimed Chechen republic in a peacekeeping operation on Tuesday.

The confrontation with the Chechens, the most militant of the fiercely nationalistic Sunni Muslim races on Russia's southern rim, was only one of the increasing challenges facing President Yeltsin as he returned from a visit to Britain and Hungary.

He has less than three weeks to work out a strategy for dealing with the parliamentary hardliners who are threatening to strip him of most of his powers and oust him at a forthcoming session of the supreme legislature.

Although parliament has provisionally approved the peacekeeping effort, any fighting could dangerously exacerbate the tension between Mr Yeltsin and Russian Khasbulatov, the chairman of the legislature, who is a Chechen and one of the government's fiercest critics.

Ukraine threatens to auction nuclear missile materials

A YEAR after Ukraine reassured the West that it had renounced any intention of becoming a member of the nuclear club, the former Soviet republic may have taken control of the nuclear weapons on its territory.

Western diplomats in Kiev say they are unsure whose finger is on the button of the 176 strategic nuclear missiles on Ukrainian soil. They do not believe that Ukraine has developed electronic codes to block the Commonwealth of Independent States' commands, but think that Kiev enjoys de facto control of the weapons because "nuclear" troops manning the missiles have sworn allegiance to the Ukrainian state. "Yes, we are worried and are monitoring the situation," a Western diplomat said.

In a further twist, Igor Yushkovsky, Ukraine's first deputy prime minister, raised the prospect last week of auctioning nuclear materials from the missiles to the highest bidder should the country receive no financial aid from the West to dismantle them.

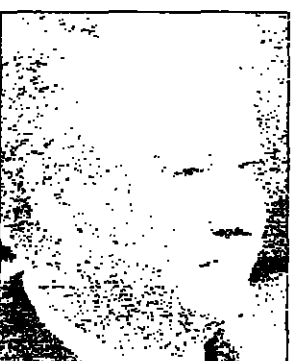
Ukraine has persevered until now with an ambiguously worded policy. Konstantin Morozov, the defence minister, says the country does not strive to become a nuclear power but wants joint control of the weapons on its territory and the right of veto. In essence, Ukraine aims to be a nuclear player until all the missiles, 130 SS-19s and 46 SS-24s, are winched from their silos and taken back to Russia.

Although the missiles are

Ukraine appears to have taken control of its nuclear arsenal.
Robert Seely writes from Kiev

covered by the START treaty. Ukraine's parliament may well reject the agreement when it is presented for ratification. Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine's prime minister, said, The Russian parliament passed the treaty last week, although President Yeltsin's government is refusing to finalise details until the other former Soviet nuclear republics — Kazakhstan, Belorussia and Ukraine — also sign.

Mr Kuchma argued that Ukraine had obliged Western nations by agreeing to remove Soviet tactical nuclear weapons from its territory earlier this year, but had received nothing in return but a pat on



Yeltsin: his government has yet to finalise treaty

the back. He added: "We removed tactical nuclear weapons and what happened? The Russians got a contract to supply the US with nuclear fuel. Where, at least, is a minimal programme of aid similar to Russia's? Our people are not fools."

Mr Yushkovsky said that if Ukraine could not receive aid from the West, it would look to other means to use the valuable nuclear materials in the multi-warhead missiles. He wanted to see a nuclear-free Ukraine, but added: "We can sell these nuclear warheads to the highest bidder. We can sell them to nuclear states; that means Russia first of all and afterwards those who will pay the most. Ukraine still intends to be nuclear-free, but we want to ensure we get something for these things."

Support for a nuclear programme is strongest among a clique of former Soviet managers from the powerful military industrial complex and with western Ukrainian deputies, the so-called nuclear nationalists. "We should aim for disarmament but possess forces of nuclear deterrence," Mykola Porovsky, a Ukrainian deputy, said.

Although the nuclear nationalists' arguments, if implemented, would lead to Ukraine being ostracised by the rest of Europe, they are not illogical. Apart from the Baltic states, no other nation's sovereignty in eastern Europe is so potentially threatened should Russia become militarily unstable. To that extent, a nuclear capability for Ukraine makes excellent military sense.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Albania honours Britons

Tirana: Albania honoured 55 British servicemen killed during the second world war by dedicating a monument in Tirana's main park where they are thought to be buried. "With this ceremony, Albanians correct an historical injustice and express deep gratitude to their allies," President Berisha told a gathering of about 100 people. "Although we could not find their graves, they will remain for ever in our hearts."

The simple red marble slab bears the inscription: "In memory of the British servicemen who died in Albania during World War II", and some of the names of the dead servicemen. (AP)

□ Kuwait: Relatives of the 49 British servicemen killed in the Gulf war attended an Armistice day service in the Anglican church. (Reuters)

Jets strike

Monrovia: Nigerian jets hit rebel targets here after a cease-fire failed to hold in Liberia's civil war. The US backed calls for United Nations peacekeepers to replace the West African force which it said was no longer neutral. (Reuters)

Mosques seized

Cairo: Egypt stepped up its war against Muslim fundamentalists by ordering the nationalisation of 40,000 private mosques. The takeover was sparked by the recent killing of a tourist.

Colombia blast

Bogotá: A bomb blast injured 25 people at a government office in the Colombian city of Cali. The attack, in the wake of a state of emergency declaration on Sunday, was blamed on drug traffickers. (Reuters)

Nude ordeal

Palermo: A woman, 25, accused of infidelity here was stripped by her husband's family and forced to stand naked on a balcony where she was publicly abused. Her mother rescued her. (Reuters)

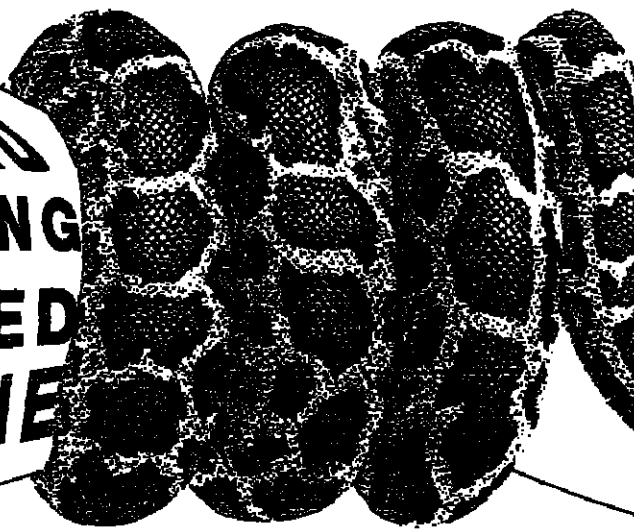
Plea for Haiti

Miami: The Organisation of American States is to seek the United Nations' help in restoring Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's democratically-elected president, who was removed by a military coup last year.

Panda hits back

Peking: A wild giant panda attacked and injured 15 villagers as they went to catch it for scientific observation. China Daily said. (Reuters)

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Fascinating trip through Crystal
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The risks of an asteroid strike.
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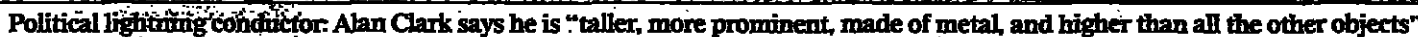
مكتبة الأصيل

From within the walls of his castle, the man at the heart of the political storm over arms supplies to Iraq speaks out

Of Anthony Sampson's acerbic comments in *The Times* yesterday he rejoins robustly, "Well of course he is a Down Memory Lane figure, the archdeacon of the wanking classes whose emotions so often run away with them. He doesn't seem

Lord Owen, he believes, has an impossible task. "He could sit in a flat in Geneva for 18 years and nothing will change, despite his good intentions. My line has always been, let them get on with it and keep out of it. How could I have explained, in a neutral, minimalist way, to the UN, that the Serbs decided to stop Serbs killing Muslims? You can't do it. You can just about tolerate it if he's fought for Queen and country. I have a document from the Gulf war, a direction to officers in the field about disposing of the cadavers of those who had been killed by biological or chemical strife, about how the skulls and remains should be buried. The remains should be ground up and it was so retolent of Wilfred Owen's *Dulce et Decorum*

Since he is about to hurtle back to London down the M20 in his Jaguar (perilously close to the speeds which have previously landed him in court) Jane packs his bag



The one thing he wishes he had done while in government was strike a soft-hearted blow for animal rights: he wanted to legislate for the a scarlet label on all furs, stating the kind of leg-hole trap used to kill the creature. "But the Lady stepped in, and the Gulf war intervened," he says, "and I feel I let animals down." Ever since he was struck by the prettiness of

grouse while shooting he has had this sentimental streak about the entire animal kingdom; they are a innocent, he says, while human beings "have the devil in the corner of their souls".

All his most incendiary thoughts on erstwhile colleagues, of which we have had foretastes, are now reserved for his diaries, transcribed from his spidery longhand and auctioned to the highest bidders, to be published by Orion next June. He promises to be frank about infidelities ("or mostly, sobbing because she doesn't fancy me") because he felt there was a man-in-

the canon of diaries: "Most famous diarists — Chipp, Harold, Jim Lees, Milne, Driberg — have been by homosexuals."

Though he finds his own voice intensely irritating, "so drawly and queenly, like an old don after lunch", he is unlikely to be silent. He has always enjoyed immunity from commonplace concerns (like mortgages) because of his wealth, thanks to the industry of his grandfather, a Paisley cotton king, and the generosity of his father, Kenneth Clark, always known as Lord Clark of Civilisation, who bought this castle as the most

If he were a more restful soul he might find that to live among all this, at 64, was enough. But he is not a restful soul. Which is lucky for those of us who prefer to be surprised rather than soothed by people in public life. Suddenly he thumps his hand down excitedly on the boot of his Jaguar, having caught his reflection in its highly polished chrome and realised, "Christ! I look like Dr Strangelove."

JO FOLEY
January 1st 1993

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[illegible]

A thousand people rose to their feet and cheered as Sir George was led into lunch to the ovation from *The Pirates of Penzance* by the Princess of Wales. He stopped in disbelief at table after table as he spotted current and old patients. For nearly a year the celebration had been kept a secret from him. It had been a statistical nightmare to plan and an exercise in protocol that will never be forgotten.

Marvin De Kester who

nearly 29 years ago was delivered of a son by George Pinker, spoke for many when she said: "It was our generation's good fortune to come across somebody like him. I had many problems before I eventually had my son but George Pinker made it possible. I was in the Lindo wing



were indeed simple — pink Porcellina roses, white polyanthus and blue cornflower — but she had scoured the globe for tiny willow cribs to place them in. "Nothing is too much trouble for him," she said, as she looked at her two daughters (both *Pinker babies*), wondering who would see them through their pregnancy.

After lunch David Frost, a *Pinker father*, took the stage. One of the few men to attend — in fact they were outnumbered by about eight to one — he hosted a special "This Is Your Life" tribute. A certain glee was evident at the eminent gynaecologist's discomfort as aspects of his 68 years were shown on a large screen.

After all, as the comedian pointed out, he had been married to three of her great discomferts.

The loudest cheers were kept for Caroline Murray, his secretary of 20 years, and Mary Soares, who had spent 29 years on nights with Sir George at the Lindo wing. In all, it was estimated that Sir George had been present at 20,000 births — nine of which have been British royals.

An announcement was made that a fund has been set up in his name which is to be administered by him, through Birthright, into those areas of research he feels most need them most. The fund has already reached £250,000.

Emotions ran high, and handkerchiefs were removed from designer pockets as Sir George reminded everyone that he was not retiring just yet, but within the year. Among other tributes, his two

granddaughters, Emma and Roseanna, came on to present him with two bound volumes of letters and photographs from grateful patients. The youngest person present was 11-month-old Charles Giovanni Forte, who arrived with his parents Rocco and Aliai; the oldest person to

Time is ess

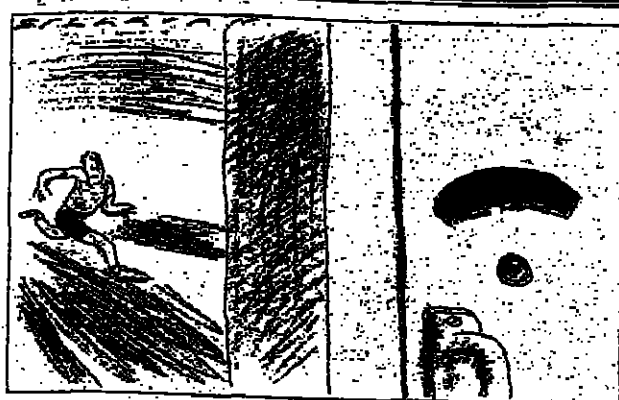
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What hasn't changed is the fact that the system still defines itself. Still the definitive planning system of the industry, after year, professionals couldn't make a

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Trotters run for cover

ALTHOUGH doctors recommend regular, steady exercise — a good, brisk walk for instance — the disasters which can follow violent exercise are legion. They were recorded by Dr Henry Solomon, a cardiologist from Cornell University, in his book *The Exercise Myth*.

A new dimension to the debate on exercise has now been added by consultant gastroenterologist Dr Peter Mullen. It seems that if a patient's bowels are at all unreliable, for instance if they

suffer from colitis, proctitis or even irritable bowel syndrome, the stimulation of the early morning run may precipitate a crisis, at best a rush to the lavatory, at worst a disaster. This phenomenon is apparently well known to joggers and is described by them as joggers, or trotters, trots.

Dr Mullen reports that some joggers even have to plot their route through heavily wooded countryside, in order that they may have plenty of cover, in case they get caught short. Dr Mullen has, with the aid of radio-opaque beads, demonstrated the effect on gut motility of the morning run. It seems that it is a good, in some cases too good, laxative.

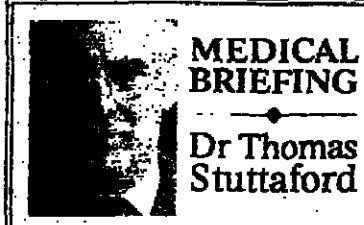
Paying the ultimate price

THE life of Debbie Raymond, who was found dead at a friend's flat last week, could not have presented a greater contrast to that of the Nigerian "mule" who died on Sunday shortly after her arrival at Heathrow.

Miss Raymond was heir to a £35 million fortune, the Nigerian woman is likely to have earned less than £1,000 for swallowing condoms loaded with cocaine to try to smuggle them through customs. Yet both women died after taking cocaine, overdose is always a risk, whether the drug is used for recreation, or carried for profit.

Neither tolerance, the ability to take with impunity larger and larger doses of a drug, nor physical dependence develop to any great extent in cocaine users, but psychological dependence can lead to a very intense craving.

Cocaine has a similar, but more intense effect than amphetamines, whether speed, or, from an earlier age, granny's purple hearts. In small quantities cocaine produces a sense of well-being, excitement and occasionally hallucinations; the imbiber becomes noisy, talkative and in their own view fascinating. Their behaviour is likely to be socially inappropriate, unpredictable and, if thwarted, violent. If there is a paranoid component to these drug-in-



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

duced sensations, their tendency to produce aggression is enhanced. The effect of the drug on the psyche in small quantities is related to the user's previous personality; it is less harmful in the staid and stolid, but the staid and stolid rarely short cocaine. Most people feel depressed after a cocaine-induced high.

Constant use produces anxiety, loss of appetite and weight, poor concentration and sleeplessness and sometimes a frankly paranoid state. Cocaine is one of the drugs which causes formication, the sensation that ants, "or cocaine bugs", are crawling all over the skin. The over-suspiciousness, paranoia, which can be a sign of regular cocaine taking, does not necessarily disappear when the drug has worn off.

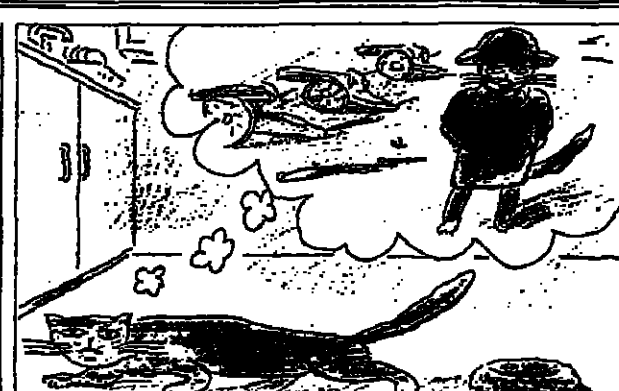
Cocaine taking in pregnancy is particularly dangerous both for the mother and the baby; bleeding, which can cause

placenta detachment, occurs and as a result there is a risk to the life of the mother as well as a higher still-birth rate. The use of cocaine in early pregnancy increases the congenital malformation rate.

The toxic dose varies greatly from person to person. It can be as low as 20 milligrams, hence the occasional reports of disaster following the experimental taking of a snort or two by a novice.

Overdose causes an increase in the rate of breathing, an increased temperature, a rapid and sometimes irregular heart rate and the over-stimulation of the nervous system, which can cause generalised twitching or convulsions. Death can, even in healthy young athletes, occur from a myocardial infarction (a heart attack). The most common potentially fatal effect on the cardiovascular system is the production of a dangerous arrhythmia, when the heart beat can become totally disorganised.

Other users die after repeated convulsions from lung congestion, heart failure or, in the case of the Nigerian woman, kidney failure. Severe overdose, even if it does not cause death, can leave the person crippled. In some cases the user suffers gangrene of the gut, in others destruction of the genitalia has been recorded.



Unknown territory

VETERINARY surgeons have been concerned that cats have developed subacute spongiform encephalopathy, a progressive brain disease, after eating meat containing beef or mutton products infected with the slow virus which causes the mad cow disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy. The spread of disease from one species to another by eating infected food is dreaded as much by doctors as vets.

A recent report in the *Journal of the British Veterinary Association* that a puma had

died in a zoo of subacute spongiform encephalopathy is dismaying. The puma was said never to have eaten any part of a cow or sheep which, in the opinion of government scientists, could transmit the disease to a different species.

The question inevitably asked is: "If a puma, why not a human?" Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and Kuru, the human equivalents of mad cow disease, have been spread by cannibalism and, more recently, through surgery.

Politicians often interpret the scientific expression "there is no evidence that" as meaning "it can't or it won't". There is a wealth of difference in meaning between the two.

Surreal sex or talking dirty with the boys?

In a series of seminars in Paris, the Surrealists thrashed out their views of sexuality. Andy Martin is surprised by their disappointing lack of perversity

If you could take a time-machine back to c. one million BC and eavesdrop on the campfire chat among an early encounter group of hairy men with long arms and protruding foreheads, you might expect to hear something like this:

1st caveman: What excites you most (about a woman)?

2nd caveman: Legs and thighs.

3rd caveman: Buttocks.

4th caveman: The breasts.

5th caveman: Breasts.

Investigating Sex: Surrealist Discussions 1928-1932, published this week, suggests that either cavemen, or pre-conscious Surrealists, or that the Surrealists were, latter-day hunter-gatherers, since this is in fact the text of a debate between, in the same order, the writers Louis Aragon, Marcel Duhamel, Jacques Prévert, Raymond Queneau and the photographer Man Ray. True, the cavemen might have neglected to add, as Georges Sadoul does, "Everything to do with perversity and experiment".

These collected transcriptions of a dozen no-holds-barred, round-table sexual seminars in Paris bring together a total of 40 hardline or fellow-travelling Surrealists, the standard-bearers of the French avant-garde who tried to turn Freud and Marx into art. This book offers a revealing snapshot of the movement: the passionate dogma, the heresies, the rifts and excommunications, and conclusively demonstrates how little the Surrealists really had in common. André Breton is the only one to be present at all 12 "sessions".

If there is one disappointment, it is that even the Sur-

realists cannot manage to come up with anything outstandingly perverse or experimental.

Some of the later episodes involve a few cautious women, who have little to add — apart from Madame Lena, an energetic bisexual, who dates her first ejaculation to the age of eight. Otherwise, this is phallic discourse at its most phallic. The boys do everything but whip down their pants and compare steers.

This men-talk makes you wonder if the Surrealists ever had subreal sex at all

Everything you ever really wanted to know about sex is here: how long can you keep it up, how often, and how. Nevertheless, there are some distinctively surreal elements. Thus, for example:

Breton: Since men have a cock between two balls, how is it that women have nothing between their breasts?

Paul Eluard: It's raining.

Breton, the "Pope" of Surrealism, is the most cogent but also the most ideologically driven participant. He prompts, bolsters and simply out-talks the opposition. His obsession with the idea of simultaneous orgasm reflects his overriding desire that sex should allegorise the Surrealist synthesis of the real, and the imaginary. His opinion is

invariably elevated to the status of a universal imperative.

Despite his clamour for non-conformism, Breton is sexually the most conservative of the lot. He abhors homosexuals ("pathological"), extols the primacy of monogamous love over sex, and is no strong advocate of bestiality or necrophilia.

He is determined to get at the "facts", but the pursuit of truth in these conversations runs into one serious obstacle: namely, how trustworthy are male assertions about sex? Or as Antonin Artaud (who professes intellectual excitement anyway and storms off pure it: "his investigations" like this one, for most people a degree of ostentation inevitably intrudes).

Breton's comment that "I have never made love more than five times without feeling an irresistible need to go for a walk, preferably alone," seems improbably unostentatious alongside Eluard, who claims 11 consecutive times without leaving the room and also reckons to have made love to "between 500 and 1,000" women. I began to understand why his wife Gala ran off with Salvador Dalí.

The least plausible of all the speakers is Jean Genbach, a defrocked Jesuit with alleged Satanic tendencies, who sought for a while to reconcile Christianity and Surrealism before finally denouncing Breton as Lucifer incarnate. In the fourth session he tries to get metaphysical with Breton, invoking the soul and "amorous radiance", and is brusquely told to stop talking dirty and concentrate on good clean sex.

Genbach has the miracu-



Angling for amour: the Surrealists regarded sex as a metaphor which could be enlisted in their struggle against the social order

in any woman at will. But his most surreal statement of all is: "I don't believe a woman I love can have periods."

This makes even less sense than the belief apparently held by Max Ernst that you can have orgasm without ejaculation, or indeed ejaculation without orgasm. Some of this men-talk makes you wonder if the Surrealists ever had any subreal sex at all. They are fanatically opposed to paternity ("there are no fathers": "reproduction represents evil"), but contraceptives are laughingly rejected. *Investigating Sex* is pre-Aids, but they talk as if it were pre-VD too. No one ever dies of sex, except through Eluardian exhaustion. I was reminded reading this book of the objection to her suitors from Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*: "Words, words, words. I'm so sick of words... is that all you blighters can do?"

Artaud rails against the real: "Sexuality in itself I find repulsive. I would gladly do without it. I only wish all mankind had reached that point." But even Breton admits, "Sensuality only interests

me in a purely cerebral way. I am absolutely opposed to all displays of physical sensuality."

For the Surrealists, sex is above all a symbol, a metaphor, an exercise in anthropomorphism. They are naive enough to suppose it can be enlisted in the struggle against the social order, as if the bourgeoisie never had sex. Sex as transgression, as salvation, as redemption. If civilisation is built on repression, then lots of crazy, steamy stuff should soon topple it. Queneau is shrewd enough to spot the quasi-religious utopian subtext in Breton's talk of "purity" and observes: "I would happily die for love or the revolution, but I know very well that I'll never encounter either of them."

It is hard not to see *Investigating Sex* as a nostalgic evocation of an age of innocence, when shameful sexual prejudices and practices still had to be brought out into the open and it was possible to dream that this revelation would suffice to bring about a new order, or possibly disor-

der. But the exponential inflation of sexual discourse in the late 20th century, in which everybody and everything speaks of almost nothing else, has only compounded the commodification of sex. Or should I say Sex?

The Surrealist rallying-cry, "The conquest of the world by the image", has found ironic fulfilment in Madonna's graphic novel, which is Platonic in the sense that the ideal has taken over the real and the glossy photograph is the standard by which shabby reality is judged and found wanting.

The end of the 20th century echoes, with respect to sex, the end of the 19th with respect to geography: now we've made all the great explorations, brought light to the dark continent, and filled in all the gaps on the map, what is there left to know? And, more importantly, fantasise about?

The great El Dorado of sexual liberation, from Charles Fourier (who advocated daily public orgies and a sexual AA service) down to the 1960s free-lovers, turned out to be Chernobyl after all. *The Children of Men*, P.D.

James's allegory about global infertility in the near future, dramatises the Surrealist dream come true: there are no more fathers. In the mirror-images of the simulacrum we have all become voyeurs of our own bodies while the sperm count goes down like a thermometer in winter.

Breton blames his only experience of impotence on mauve wallpaper. But the

alleged rise of impotence, I suspect, is directly proportional to the rise of sexual discourse. Analysis leads to paralysis. I predict that with *Investigating Sex* a few more billion spermatozoa will bite the dust.

● *Investigating Sex: Surrealist Discussions 1928-1932*, edited by Jean Pierre and translated by Malcolm Jarvis, is published by Verso (£17.95).

Eyes stay watchful at the cutting edge

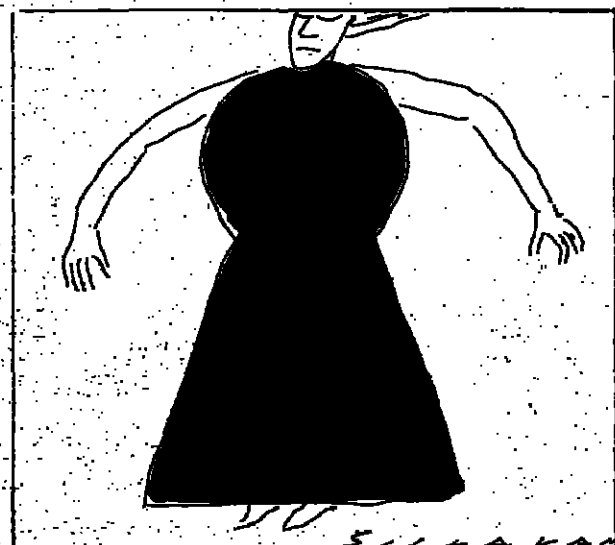
Microsurgery may be dazzling but drawbacks are starting to emerge

Keyhole techniques have revolutionised surgery over the past ten years. Surgeons no longer wear blood-stained overalls. They are seen — and they see themselves — as high-technology wizards with laser wands and magic fibre-optic eyes. For patients, the new surgery has meant smaller incisions, less pain, and a recovery time measured in days rather than weeks. One of the most widely hailed operations has been endometrial ablation — an alternative to hysterectomy for women with unmanageably heavy periods.

But medical experts are concerned that the fast pace of the surgical revolution may actually be harming some patients. The problems are twofold: the techniques may not always be better than those they replace, and the surgeons may start practising them before they are fully skilled.

The health department's advisory group on health technologies recently demanded a rigorous evaluation of new techniques before they are introduced. This week, leading members of the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) admitted concern at the speed of developments.

The RCOG is about to announce a national audit of all types of endometrial ablation following anecdotal reports from surgeons that up to four patients may have died and others suffered perforations of the womb following the procedure. "We accept that both endometrial ablation and resection are in danger of being introduced on a wide scale without a controlled trial, and we recognise our responsibility for maintaining standards," says Joe Jordan, a Birmingham gynaecologist and RCOG council member.



He explained that endometrial ablation — in which the womb lining is destroyed *in situ* by laser, electro-coagulation or microwave — and endometrial resection — in which the tissue is cut away — have only been available since the late 1980s.

All keyhole surgery operations are performed with the

aid of medical telescopes (endoscopes). These have fibre optic illumination and contain channels down which tiny medical cutters, lasers and other instruments can be passed. More recently, miniature cameras have also been attached to the endoscopes. The image is then projected on to a large screen, allowing the

surgeon, doctors-in-training and theatre nurses to have a clear view of the proceedings. The new techniques are used for an ever-growing list of procedures including prostate surgery, duodenal ulcer and hernia repairs, hysterectomies, and the removal of kidneys and ectopic pregnancies.

Mr Jordan believes most problems have arisen with resection, in which a special cutting loop is attached to an instrument known as a resectoscope. The technique can give rise to bleeding at the cutting site. This obscures the camera image, and if the surgeon carries on cutting he can cut too deep and risk perforating the womb.

However, Mr Jordan is convinced the early problems have now been resolved.

"Gynaecologists who were accustomed to using a laparoscope [a medical telescope which allows surgeons to look into the abdomen] thought it would be very simple to use a resectoscope. However, when the problems arose, they were described extensively in the medical

literature. I would be very surprised if anyone who is not confident of his ability has used a resectoscope in the last 12 months."

Ideally, Mr Jordan says, surgeons learn their techniques at the elbow of an expert. But this is not possible for doctors who are pioneering new techniques.

"I was the first person in Britain to use a laser for endometrial ablation. There was only one other person in the world doing it, and I had talked to him on the telephone and seen his video, and I knew I understood the technique. The patient has to rely on the doctor's integrity."

Victor Lewis, a gynaecologist in Watford and president of the British Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy, said: "The patient who puts herself at risk is the one who insists on seeing a doctor because she has read about him in the paper. GPs know what is going on, and they will refer the patient to a specialist in whom they have confidence."

ANN KENT

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صحة من الأصل

A report on television's depiction of the erotic is the victim of its own assumptions and preconceptions, argues Janet Daley

Sex and the single questionnaire

Why "sex and sexuality" in broadcasting? The distinction itself gives a hint of political correctness: "sexuality" being the vogue term for hetero or homosexual proclivity, as opposed simply to eroticism as the uninitiated might suppose. So this annual report for "research review" as it is called by the Broadcasting Standards Council is not just about the depiction of the sex act in broadcasting. It encompasses as well that more fashionable and contentious subject — although, mercifully, it does not use the phrase — of sexual orientation stereotyping.

Perhaps calling the opus a research review was a way of avoiding any obligation to offer comment. What is singularly lacking in this closely documented study is any evaluation or judgement of its findings. Considering that the BSC is a regulatory body and not an academic research institute, it is surprising to be offered an antiseptic recitation of data on audience response with no sign whatever of diagnosis or appraisal. It is difficult, in fact, to see how this

compendium of information ever could lead to the sort of intervention for which the council was created.

Its form is that of the academic social survey which means that, in the best sociological tradition, it treats the intractably subjective as if it were objective, the most intimate subject matter as if it were quantifiable and the most confused and secret areas of people's lives as if they were matters of immutable fact. Attitudes to sex and, not to be forgotten, sexuality, are sorted into categories which are as arbitrary as their findings are contradictory.

How much do we learn, for example, from the fact that 88 per cent of respondents agree with the assertion that, "People who don't like watching sex on television can always switch off", and its corollary, "If people want to watch sex on television, they should be allowed to", when at the same time most

people also seem to feel that televised sex is more acceptable if it is shown as part of a loving relationship. Do people have moral reservations about the depiction of sex or don't they?

The answer seems to be that audiences are as fond of straddling the fence as the authors of research reports. But it is only the framers of pseudo-objective research questionnaires who could possibly make the mistake of assuming that people do not, in fact, have strong views about sex in the media. That their responses seem confused and inconsistent is simply a reflection of the fact that they are being asked questions which, under the intimidating canon of acceptable opinion, may only be answered in one way. Who, apart from the eccentrically principled, would dare to say that people should not be allowed to watch what they wish in the

privacy of their own homes? Who, apart from the dogmatically entrenched, would claim that what you are not actually being coerced into watching yourself is none of your business? Or that the use of graphic sexual scenes in artistically ambitious productions, like *The Camomile Lawn*, even if that use is excessive or gratuitous, must be treated with more reverence than frankly exploitative erotica?

But what if the questions were put differently: do you feel that the indiscriminate depiction of sex cheapens its meaning? Or do you feel that some people might be harmfully influenced by the casual treatment of sex in the media? Not having the resources of the Broadcasting Standards Council at my disposal, I have no proof, but I am willing to bet that roughly 88 per cent of respondents would answer "yes" to those questions as well.

And what would that mean? A bit more, I venture to suggest, than the findings of this report, whatever you finally decide that they are. It might mean, for example, that people were disturbed by the thought of the suggestive, the border-line psychotic or the fantasising voyeur using televised sex as either an encouragement or a justification for his own dangerous behaviour. In my own impressionistic, unverifiable way, I would be prepared to bet that most people feel some trepidation over the atmosphere which is created by a non-stop diet of sexual titillation: the unquestioned assumption that most people engage, pretty much constantly, in illicit sex.

If I were inclined toward moralistic paranoia, I might be inclined to think that the questions in this survey were specifically designed to be self-cancelling. By offering

people the forbidden option of actually prohibiting what others may see and receiving the inevitable refusal, all of the rest of their concerns from the crudely priggish (the fear that their children will pick up "bad words") to the serious (the effect of sexual violence on the impressionable) become nullified. Clearly, we are forced to conclude, people have no idea what they want. The only view that comes across clearly and unambiguously is that they are against censorship. Which is to say, they would not wish personally to be responsible for telling anyone else what he could or could not see.

Like the sociology on which it is modelled, the BSC research is riddled with hidden premises. Just as the use of the word "sexuality" as code for homosexual concerns places it firmly in the best tradition of political fashion, so its apparent-

ly value-free approach offers academic respectability. But to what useful end is an organisation such as the BSC, which was conceived specifically to monitor moral standards in broadcasting, commissioning precisely the kind of research which is detached from any sensible context in which moral judgements may be considered? The theory is, of course, that objective factual material — what people say in responses to apparently impartial questions — must be gathered before any overriding moral conclusions may be reached. In fact, no moral discussion of any point may be carried on outside of a context. The disembodied "objective" question of the social survey is the most useless form of data imaginable for anyone seriously attempting to uphold ethical standards which are, by definition, subjective.

But this report's methodology is based on the naive social science proposition that what is subjective must be arbitrary, when, ironically, what passes for objectivity may simply be the reflection of intellectual fashions of the moment.

Back to the old Thatcher wars

Mr Lamont must refight campaigns of the 1980s, says Bruce Anderson

Over the past few days there has been a disagreement in the Treasury between the politicians and the historians. The historians, who included most of the senior officials, argued that Chancellor Lamont's Autumn Statement ought to set policy in context. They wanted a detailed examination of previous forecasts, the last Budget, and the implosion of the ERM on Black Wednesday.

The politicians had a more basic strategy. If there is to be a new beginning, they said, let us have one, with a clean slate and no tortuous historical explanations which would enable Labour spokesmen to express their derision. Not surprisingly, for he is one,

'There will be a tone of audacity this afternoon to give pause to anyone who thinks Lamont washed up'

the Chancellor sided with the politicians. There will be a tone of audacity about this afternoon's statement which ought to give pause to anyone who thinks that Mr Lamont is all washed up.

But the statement is fraught with difficulties. There is a real danger that the government will satisfy no one. The constraints on public expenditure are real, and will be painful. Michael Howard has not got as much money as he would have liked to palliate the council tax. Gillian Shephard's hopes for substantial sums to relieve unemployment have been disappointed. The Arts Council budget is cut, which could jeopardise the position of English National Ballet, the Bristol Old Vic, Liverpool Playhouse, even the Royal Opera House. Although the Jubilee line and certain other capital projects will probably be protected, there will also be cuts in capital programmes. The construction industry is bound to be disappointed, as are those who argued for a recovery through public works.

The lame, the halt and the blind have been largely spared, but their special-interest groups will still accuse the government of callousness. There have been some minuscule cuts in overseas aid, but nothing that will reduce Swiss banks' profits. This will not prevent the foreign aid lobby from accusing ministers of being personally responsible for all the misgovernment on the continent of Africa. Amid the howls about cuts, however, the voice of stern fiscal

rectitude will also be heard. Ministers will be reminded that the £244.5 billion spending total allows for an increase of nearly 4 per cent in real terms at a time when most private households are restraining their expenditure. Why should the national household be more prodigal? Public-sector borrowing for this year is likely to be £36-37 billion; 6 per cent of GDP. The estimate for next year is around £45 billion; in recessions, such estimates are overshoot. This is an enormous volume of borrowing.

So Mr Lamont has a dual problem. In order to solve it, he will have to copy both Margaret Thatcher and Wilkins Micawber. He has to refight two of the intellectual battles of the early 1980s. He also has to hope that something will turn up. The first intellectual battle relates to the role of the state in running the economy. In the early 1980s, the Thatcherites argued that the government could not create economic growth; it could only create the economic conditions for growth: low inflation, low taxation and the deregulation of the

supply side. Mr Lamont has to make those points all over again.

The second intellectual battle relates to the size of the public sector. On present plans, the proportion of national income spent by the state could soon rise to 43-44 per cent; a dangerously high figure. Meanwhile the national debt as a proportion of national income could increase from the high 30 per cent to the high 50 per cent. The size of the state has increased, is increasing and ought to be diminished.

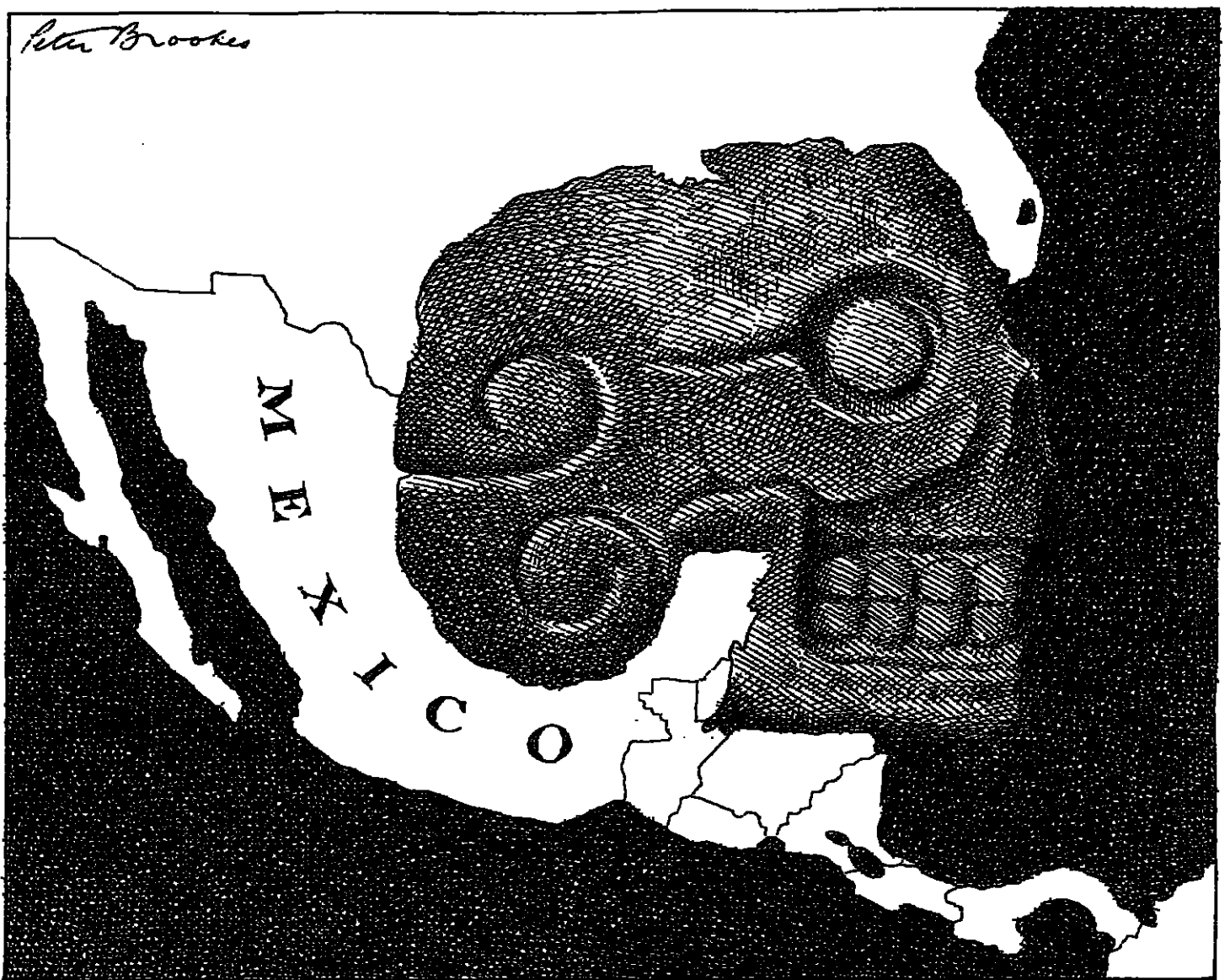
This is where Micawber comes in. Mrs Thatcher coped with the problem of public spending not by cutting it but by using economic growth to ensure that it fell as a proportion of national income while still rising in real terms. It is hard to see how Mr Lamont can hope to do better.

This is the nub of his and the government's difficulties. Until there is economic growth, nothing will come right. Once growth resumes, there is still a good chance that everything will come right.

Bruce Anderson is a columnist on the Sunday Express.

Let us now praise old gods

Mexico's ancient art talks across the millennia, writes Bernard Levin



But that is only half the mystery, and the other half is the more intractable. It is, of course, how can we hope to put ourselves into a response that would mean anything to the makers of these things, even those nearest to us in time, which in any case is nearly 500 years away and an entirely different society?

Let us look at Nos. 43 and 44: they both portray Ehecatl, the god of the winds. He is depicted with the lower half of his face turned into a strange deformity, resembling (though not much) a bird's beak which, we are told by the experts, identifies Ehecatl as the bringer of the winds.

To us, this is almost meaningless. We know (or think we do) that no god is needed to bring the winds. Nor do we recognise a face half-man, half-bird, as a deity without whom the world would not go on. But as we stand in front of Ehecatl, a strange feeling comes over us: these icons, for want of a better

word, begin to speak to us. They do not speak in words, or even symbols; they force their meaning on us by the power that emanates from them, and although we brush aside the sculptor's theology, we become, for a long moment, part of it. In other words, we have understood, because the sculptors, though they knew no more of us than we do of them, have made us see.

The ancient Mexican deities were as fierce as they were powerful, and their priests and priestesses were creatures of awe and implacability. Nevertheless, we do not shudder at these figures: on the contrary, so amazing is the artistry that we manage to admire rather than tremble, while not forgetting for a moment that even the most innocent item had been, all those centuries ago, crammed with such feelings.

But this is turning into a Theory, may Quetzalcoatl forgive me. There

is no need to worry about our relations with long dead Mexicans unless we want to: the magnificence — no other word will do — that shines out of virtually every item in the exhibition is enough to enrich our lives. There are figures, in addition to those which have a didactic or religious nature, at which you will gaze, so alive are they and colourful (some literally so). There are countless funerary offerings for death, in these cultures, has a meaning far wider than just the end of life: there are carvings of astounding beauty and meticulousness; there are wonderful masks (masks must be the oldest and most widespread of human meaningful adornment); there are vessels and containers, ordinary human beings with no resonances, as with the figure of a hunchback: there is a bottle carved in the shape of an armadillo which I propose to steal at midnight on the Wednesday after next; and then, crammed full of feeling, we stroll over to

another layout, and we stop dead at object 76, labelled simply Priestess. "Priestess" is unique in the whole range of human or semi-human figures, and she displays the one thing I did not imagine I would find in such a show: she is shrieking with laughter. Her glee — eyes screwed up, hands lifted — is without shadow, and ritual flees before her; she alone is worth the entry fee.

Ah, yes: there is a somewhat delicate matter to negotiate. What about the Aztecs? It is true that Hernando Cortés and his 600 men ended the world that produced such glories. On the other hand, he also ended the hecatombs of human sacrifices, whose hearts were cut out of the living body; I could find only one tiny reference to the custom. Alas that nobody thought to cut the heart out of the Hayward Gallery's architect before he got to work. But not even the surroundings can quench the splendour that is to be seen there. Go see.

Best bounces back

WHEN Keith Best, the former member for Ynys Mon (Anglesey), became the first person to be convicted for multiple share applications in October 1987, one of his first acts was to paint out the letters MP from his headed notepaper. The expunging may prove to have been only temporary. On Tuesday night the rehabilitation of Best's political career was given a kick-start when he was unanimously selected by Brixton Tories as the candidate for the Stockwell ward in next month's Lambeth council by-election. Quite why he wants to become a member of the council that spawned both John Major and Ken Livingstone is unclear. There are those among Best's colleagues who have served on the hard-left council and who would happily swap their time in the town hall for a spell in Ford open prison.

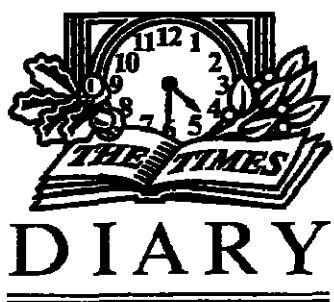
Best insists he is not using the council election as a stepping stone back to the Commons. But then he qualifies that by quoting the old adage, "never say never". The former MP was initially sentenced to four months but in the end served only five days in prison after his sentence was quashed and a larger fine imposed instead. A jail

sentence of a year or more would have barred him from becoming an MP again.

Speaking from his office in north London, where he is director of the charity Prisoners Abroad, Best says: "I've always wanted to be of some public service and I have made remarks about his conviction but he threatens: 'If the Opposition try any dirty tricks they will be contravening the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.' He admits that the people he hopes to represent have a right to know about his past. 'It was one act of stupidity,' he says, 'out of which came two good things. I've become a lot more mature in my judgment and I understand the problems of people who have sunk to the depths of despair.' Best has two other important qualifications. He lives in the borough; and the short spell he did serve in jail was spent in Brixton prison.

Taking guard

THE ASHES, that tiny urn which means so much to the cricketing world, is clearly worth far more than its weight in gold. The ar-



House white

TO HIS surprise, and no doubt pleasure, Bill Clinton is about to benefit personally from the Galt war between the EC and America. The Bordelais wine industry has snapped into swift action upon hearing Carla Hills, the American representative at the Galt talks, threaten a 200 per cent tax increase on imports of EC non-sparkling

equivalent in value to the crown jewels." Indeed it does. Despite the temporary move to the V&A, the cricket authorities have no intention of allowing the Ashes to travel down under, even if the Aussies win them in next summer's Test series.

The Marylebone Cricket Club decided to hire specialist security freight handlers for the urn's short journey barely three miles across London. Insured for £1 million, it was placed in a container which was put inside another box and then loaded into a museum van with specially adjusted "air-ride" suspension. The van was joined by a security vehicle and an unmarked car in front, all in permanent radio contact throughout the trip.

"We did not arrange the route beforehand for security reasons," says Michael Jaeger, of Gander and White, the antiques shippers. "I think the MCC sees the Ashes as

equivalent in value to the crown jewels." Indeed it does. Despite the temporary move to the V&A, the cricket authorities have no intention of allowing the Ashes to travel down under, even if the Aussies win them in next summer's Test series.

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Jeffrey Bernard, left, is travel sick. Although the Italians usually display a suitable respect for British cultural exports, Jeffrey Bernard is unwell, which has just opened at the Eliseo theatre in Rome, has disconcerted them. The low-life play is being taken by critics as a sure sign that Britain is becoming a Third World nation. The play's director Ned Sherrin, centre, and its writer Keith Waterhouse, right, are said to be more than happy that their work is causing a stir in Club Med dimes.

white wines, and as soon as December 5.

No one would ever suggest that the president-elect could be so easily bought, but it can surely do the Bordelais wine industry no harm to have shipped Clinton a dozen bottles of two of the greatest Bordeaux whites. The case just dis-

patched to Little Rock by the Conseil Interprofessionnel du Vin de Bordeaux, the industry's professional body, contains not only the Sauternes premier cru Chateau d'Yquem, practically unobtainable by normal mortals, but also six bottles of the equally sought-after Graves cru Domaine de Chevalier.

In a cunning ploy to keep our soldiers on their toes, the army now seems to be using girly magazines to test discipline. During a recent training exercise in the Welsh hills, men from the Royal Green Jackets discovered an abandoned backpack containing, most prominently, a particular titillating magazine.

Unfortunately for the troopers, the sack had been rigged to have explosive consequences if human nature got the better of army training.

Crisis? What crisis?

WILL anyone miss the chancellor's Autumn Statement? Today Norman Lamont will deliver the last in the series begun by Lord (then Sir Geoffrey) Howe ten years ago to replace Denis Healey's regular crisis mini-budgets.

Few at the Treasury will miss the forecast. "There are no traditions associated with it, no Budget box or glass of whisky or public posing in front of 11 Downing Street," says a spokesman. But Lord Howe, believed to be in the Ukraine offering economic advice, will surely have a twinge of regret at its passing. Will we see a return to the prolific mini-budgets of the 1970s? As one economist remarks: "We certainly have the crises".

مكتبة الامم المتحدة



EVE ORDAINED

The Church must now build consensus on the ruins of division

The decision by the General Synod yesterday to allow female ordination will inspire celebration and despair in almost equal measure. The conservative coalition of evangelicals and Anglo-Catholics, which lost the vote by the merest whisker, has already heralded a crippling schism in the Church, led by as many as 12 bishops who find the prospect of women priests literally unconscionable. The task of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, must now be to minimise the destructive effect of this historic vote, while standing unequivocally by the fine principles that it enshrines.

This task will be the greatest test of his archiepiscopate. In the long, splenetic row over female ordination, the various factions within the Church of England have swung perilously between the dignified traditions of ecclesiastical democracy and the lowest form of populism. Both sides have resorted at one time or another to feeble comparisons with Nazism in order to demonise the opposite argument. Dr Carey himself has unwisely caricatured the belief that women cannot be priests as "a most serious heresy". Kinder words will be needed to close the rift that yesterday's vote inevitably widened.

The ordination of the first woman priest in 1994 will also jeopardise the progress of ecumenism and the hard-won understanding achieved between Rome and Canterbury. John Gummer, the agriculture minister, warned the synod yesterday that its decision would exclude the Church of England from the universal Christian tradition that binds Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican communions. Rome may indeed react to Albion's latest perfidy by opening its doors to defecting Anglo-Catholics and then slamming them firmly shut.

Yet if this is the "cost of conscience", so be it.

The history of the Christian faith is in one sense a history of schism: between Catholicism and Orthodoxy, Rome and Avignon, Reformation and Counter-Reformation. In this case, the Church of England has shown decisively that it values some principles more than absolute unity within its own ranks, or nervous solidarity with other Christian traditions. The wooliness of recent Anglican history may yet be forgiven.

By elevating women to the priesthood, the Church has proved itself responsive to the prevailing mood of the nation whose spiritual life it is supposed to serve, and acknowledged an argument that had become all but irresistible. The theological debate will not be resolved by a single vote but the invocation of scriptural authority by both sides has established little more than the contradictions within the Bible on matters of gender, and the irrelevance of St Paul's fiercely patriarchal vision to any modern context. Other countries within the Anglican communion have ordained women since 1944, and there are already 1,300 deaconesses in Britain, who perform a range of priestly tasks. The ordination of women is unlikely to provoke a social catastrophe or encourage moral decline.

Commendably, the synod has not issued a centralist diktat but passed an act of empowerment, which respects individual conscience and subsidiarity. Parishes and dioceses that oppose female ordination will be able to "opt out" of the reform; priests who feel compelled to resign will be helped financially. This is a high-risk strategy. But it is the right one for a Church that has survived for 400 years through patience, negotiation and goodwill, and must now build a fresh consensus upon the ruins of its latest division.

FRUITS FOR AUTUMN

The proof of the Chancellor's pudding is not in the presentation

Today's Autumn Statement offers Norman Lamont a slim chance to justify his continuation as Chancellor of the Exchequer. It also presents John Major with an opportunity to restore his political credibility, which is rather more important.

In the weeks since the prime minister's conversion to economic growth, the Autumn Statement has been billed as the substance of his airy promises to pull the country out of recession. If the Treasury's announcements this afternoon fail to live up to these high expectations, Mr Major's personal authority could be irretrievably damaged. Black Wednesday, which could have marked the end of his disappointing beginning, would mark the beginning of the end.

For once, Mr Major and his Cabinet appear to have recognised in advance the importance of the decisions they have to make. Ministers have devoted the last three days to unprecedented lobbying among Conservative backbenchers to ensure that the party is ready to face the tough choices that have to be made on public spending.

In themselves, these efforts make sense. The oldest rule in the book is that bad news should be thoroughly prepared for, while good news should come as a surprise. Even though total public spending in the year ahead will rise by 4 per cent in real terms, exaggerated stories about savage cuts in social security and soaring council taxes are a normal part of the news management game.

The government's softening-up campaign also raises some ominous questions, however. Is the package going to be better prepared for than prepared? Mr Major must not be so preoccupied with warnings of inevitable bad news in the Autumn Statement that he forgets the purpose of the exercise. Mr Lamont needs to deliver a positive mess-

age that will boost confidence and economic growth. The Prime Minister needs to concentrate on more than presentation and party unity. The content of the package cannot be left for the Treasury to decide.

The Treasury has misjudged every important fiscal and monetary decisions in the past five years, while Mr Lamont has an unbroken record of undermining confidence with his every Budget and Autumn statement. The Treasury has never accepted that the main reason for tightening policy on public spending in the midst of recession is to justify big cuts in interest rates. Without sharply lower interest rates, reductions in government spending and cuts on public sector wages would only depress the economy and undermine confidence even further. Left to themselves, the mandarins would probably bully Mr Lamont into a statement of intent that would do nothing to restore confidence and would condemn the economy, the government, and even the pound to further decline.

After the damage done to confidence by the government's recent performance, an interest rate reduction of one percentage point would not be enough to offset the depressing effects of tough cuts on public spending. If the Autumn Statement is to succeed in turning around the economy and the government's fortunes, Mr Major must tell the Chancellor to cut interest rates by two points.

The Treasury may tell him that would be risky, but Mr Major must remember that vacillation can sometimes be riskier than decisive action. If officials dare to warn Mr Major against "gambling" with lower interest rates, he should recall the quality of the advice they were offering him in the name of "economic prudence" in the days leading up to September 16.

MAN BITES DOG

Docking tails comes low in the scale of man's cruelty to animals

In the history of man's inhumanity to other animals, the docking of puppy-dog tails is a small matter. Far greater cruelty on a far wider scale is practised in battery hen cages, stalls for veal calves, research laboratories, slaughterhouses, and the streets, where dogs are ditched to fend for themselves towards a merciful extinction by animal welfare societies. Castration, whether to produce tenderness of flesh for the table or ease of handling in the paddock, is a more serious and painful amputation than docking. If fish could scream, fishing would no longer be so acceptable an amusement.

The council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is straining at a Chihuahua, but swallowing a Great Dane in its decision today whether to designate tail-docking as disgraceful conduct. The pedigree dog industry engenders continual suffering by selectively breeding dogs with squashed noses or elongated spines or bodies distorted by fashion in other ways. The veterinary industry makes a good living partly out of looking after the traumas caused by such distortions. If all dogs were allowed to revert to a mongrel, Darwinian mélange, half the vet's occupation would be gone. There would be far fewer dogs. And the survivors, reverting to a less disciplined existence, would become even more indefatigable and unsavory engines of pollution, and even sharper instruments of biting.

Nevertheless, man has moved on from a perception of the world in which he has been given dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and every living dog

that moveth upon the earth. It is impossible for *Homo sapiens*, which is a carnivorous species, to live without cruelty to other animals. But modern morality is, quite rightly, extremely tender about unnecessary cruelty to brute beasts.

Man has been cutting the tail off his best friend for millennia. The Romans did it because they believed, erroneously, that this prevented rabies. Professional fighting dogs, from which boxers and pit bull terriers and like curs are descended, had the operation to reduce the number of non-essential parts that an opponent could get its teeth around. But much modern docking is cosmetic mutilation, for the same reasons that the length of women's skirts goes up and down, or for convenience, to stop tails knocking the Dresden off the occasional table.

There may be a case for docking the tails of some breeds for hygienic or prophylactic reasons, as the tails of lowland sheep are docked to prevent the accumulation of dirt that encourages the blow-fly. This also reduces the wasteful accumulation of fat in a worthless limb. Highland sheep keep their tails as a protection from the weather.

Some dogs that work in rough undergrowth may avoid injury by being streamlined. Small terriers such as Jack Russells, with a penchant for burrows, may have their chances of survival improved by having unnecessary projecting parts such as dew claws and tails removed. But minor surgery just for the sake of fashion is minor cruelty. In the scale of cruelty to dogs, a ban on docking will be a purely cosmetic improvement.

Arms-for-Iraq: a remedy sought

From the Director General of the Machine Tool Technologies Association

Sir, Following the collapse of the trial of three former Matrix Churchill executives and their subsequent acquittal with costs awarded, our association welcomes the prime minister's decision to order an independent judicial enquiry into the whole affair (report, November 11).

The gross waste of £3 million in taxpayers' money involved in mounting the case, the unnecessary and possibly long-term damage it has brought to the UK machine tool industry commercially and the serious effects the case has had on the industry, especially during these extremely difficult times, is a prime example of selected government departments squandering their time and resources and failing to co-operate in the best interests of British industry.

Certainly the government should urgently co-ordinate its respective departments in one unified voice instead of having investigated three individuals, causing the loss of almost 1,000 jobs at the Matrix Churchill site.

It is incumbent on the government to address the whole subject of export licence procedures forthwith and clarify the situation as soon as possible especially as far as dual-use technology is concerned.

The Department of Trade and Industry and other government departments must ensure that such events are not repeated. Justice prevailed, but at an extremely high and unnecessary cost to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON J. BROWN,
Director General,
The Machine Tool Technologies Association,
62 Bayswater Road, W2,
November 11.

Judges' pensions

From the President and the Treasurer of the Council of Her Majesty's Circuit Judges

Sir, The present judicial pension scheme provides that district judges must serve for 20 years before receiving a full pension, whereas circuit judges and High Court judges need only serve for 15 years. The scheme proposed under the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Bill, which comes up for its third reading in the Lords this week, will mean that all judges serve for 20 years and that pensions will be calculated not, as at present, on current salary but on the salary received during the last year, which is likely to be less.

If the Association of District Judges (letter, November 2) consider that some of the minor improvements introduced by this scheme compensate for the lower pension they are, of course, entitled to say so: their actual period remains unaffected. For circuit judges and High Court judges, on the other hand, the extra five-year accrual period is a very important matter. As Lord Ackner has argued (letter, September 25) it amounts to an effective reduction in salary of 7.5 per cent.

Moreover, circuit judges and High Court judges tend to be appointed when they are somewhat older than district judges. This new provision makes it likely that many judges will have to go on serving much longer to earn their pensions. The new Bill has reduced the retiring age to 70. Surely the intention is to encourage judges to retire earlier, rather than increase their period of office.

We have no doubt that the overwhelming majority of circuit judges consider that the proposed reforms are undesirable in the public interest.

Yours faithfully,
MARK DYER, President,
DAVID SMITH, Treasurer,
Council of HM Circuit Judges,
Swindon Crown Court,
Islington Street,
Swindon, Wiltshire,
November 10.

Future of Mirfield

From the Reverend Roderick Leece

Sir, When members of the government make errors of judgment based on errors of fact, such as John Major made in the case of the pit closures, they are accountable to those who elected them. By contrast, George Carey and his "cabinet", the College of Bishops, are more secure in their position: they do not have to listen so attentively to the voice of their "backbenchers", scores of whom are outraged at the Bishop of Lincoln's proposal to close Yorkshire's only theological college (report, October 29, early editions; letter, November 5).

To shut down Mirfield, acknowledged as offering the most rigorous and disciplined training for priesthood within the Church of England, would be an act of spiritual vandalism. The Church's "manufacturing base" will be severely restricted and, when the brand of Christianity currently fashionable is found to be less than totally fulfilling, the treasures of intellectual Catholicism offered by the college will be lost forever.

Yours faithfully,
RODERICK LEECE,
St Bartholomew's Vicarage,
Craven Park Road, N15,
November 6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Hopes of good news in today's Autumn Statement

From Mr John Barnard

Sir, The prospect of further cuts in the base rate is encouraging and many businesses would welcome a cut of 1 per cent enthusiastically. They may not, depending upon who their bankers are, be so enthusiastic about any further cuts.

Some clearing banks have written into their lending agreements, for both overdraft and commercial mortgages, a minimum rate below which they will not drop irrespective of the minimum lending rate set by the Chancellor.

I was glad to learn this afternoon that NatWest is reducing its minimum rate by 2 per cent. However, until the others banks follow suit, their so-called minimum lending rate will act as an effective brake on the Chancellor's efforts to boost the economy, but more importantly it will very effectively boost the profits of those banks at the expense of the business community.

Whilst the base rate may not fall below 7 per cent in the immediate future, the omens are that it will do so before long. That being the case, the banks who do have a minimum lending rate policy should consider forgoing this additional profit opportunity and pass on the full benefit of interest levels to the business community that so many other countries seem to enjoy almost permanently.

I remain, your obedient servant,
J. BARNARD,
Avondale House, Tollbridge Road,
Bathaston, Bath, Avon,
November 10.

From Mr Nicholas Bennett

Sir, The government's indication that capital spending will be encouraged as part of the package of measures to be announced in the Autumn Statement has received a general welcome from industry (report, November 9). It will be important, however, for the Chancellor to ensure that a tight control is kept over the projects to which money is allocated.

Not only should any public capital project have intrinsic merit, it should help to regenerate the local economy and encourage private investment. Before approval for a capital project is given, a thorough examination of the revenue implications needs to be made: it makes little sense to construct

a new building and then discover that the authority cannot afford to run it.

Priority should also be accorded to projects which produce savings in the longer term to the public purse. The repair and improvement of school and NHS buildings will not only benefit their users but reduce future maintenance costs.

There is a strong case for introducing new specific grants to local authorities to ensure that money reaches worthwhile projects.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BENNETT
(Under Secretary of State
for Wales, 1990-2),
7 Hareton Close, SE23.

From Mr Simon Hughes, MP for Southwark and Bermondsey (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, It is now over 18 years since the British government formally committed the UK to meeting the United Nations overseas aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. That target has still not been reached. Indeed, according to OECD figures, Britain gave 0.37 per cent of GNP in 1974 but only 0.32 per cent in the last financial year.

In the run-up to this week's Autumn Statement, "Whitehall sources" have been briefing journalists that the overseas aid budget may be cut by up to 15 per cent (report, September 28). Even if the real value of aid is maintained the recent devaluation of sterling has already reduced the value of British aid by around 10 per cent because much of Britain's aid is spent in US dollars as part of multilateral programmes.

Whilst attending the Rio Earth summit the overseas aid minister, Baroness Chalker, reportedly voiced her dissatisfaction at the falling level of Britain's aid budget. If the Autumn Statement produces anything other than a rise which takes account of the effects of devaluation then Baroness Chalker's position as a minister would be untenable. In that situation she should resign. The world's poorest should not be made to pay for the economic incompetence of Treasury forecasters and government ministers.

Yours etc.,
SIMON HUGHES
(Liberal Democrat Environment
Spokesperson),
House of Commons.

From the President of Population Concern

Sir, While recognising the economic pressures on the government, Population Concern urges that British overseas aid for population programmes, and in particular family planning, should be at least maintained at present levels, and increased to meet the growing need as soon as possible.

Rapid population growth in many parts of the world is contributing to poverty and environmental damage. One of the most vital components of successful population programmes is the provision of adequate family-planning services, combined with mother-and-child health services.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID BELLAMY,
President,
Population Concern,
231 Tottenham Court Road, W1,
November 10.

From Mr John Hughes

Sir, If the money spent on the Jubilee Line extension were at the expense of modernising the existing Underground system, I would agree with your editorial, "Productive spending" (November 7), which challenged transport priorities.

In fact, however, substantial sums are already earmarked for upgrading. A Monopolies and Mergers Commission report 18 months ago acknowledged the chronic under-investment of past decades, and in last year's Autumn Statement the government made the necessary provision of about £700 million a year.

We are now investing in the existing network at the rate of about £3 million every working day and unless the government changes its policy in this week's Autumn Statement, we shall continue to do so. This is almost double what would be spent annually in a rolling programme of network expansion of which the Jubilee Line is the first stage.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HUGHES
(Director of Finance and
Business Planning),
London Underground Ltd.,
55 Broadway, SW1,
November 10.

Business letters, page 29

Books versus bricks and mortar at British Library

From Mr S. G. Pembroke

Sir, The news that the second phase of the new British Library building at St Pancras may now be postponed indefinitely (report and leading article, November 7) cannot possibly be a source of jubilation to thinking persons, whatever the affection in which they hold the Round Reading Room at Bloomsbury.

It is the British Library collections, not the reading room, that make it uniquely important. Whatever reservations may be felt about the layout and design of the new building—the choice of brickwork is perhaps unduly deferential to the least important aspect of St Pancras station—architectural considerations cannot be rated on the same scale as the library's two most important functions, acquisition and conservation.

All those concerned with the library's future in the longer term should be united in giving priority to reversing the damage caused to a previously rational acquisitions policy by the financial cutbacks of recent

years and to halting the damage to the physical condition of the collections which has taken place over a much longer period.

Yours faithfully,
S. G. PEMBROKE,
3 Garrick Street, WC2,
November 9.

From Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, It is dispiriting enough to read about a possible decision to delay indefinitely the second phase of the building of the new British Library. It is even more depressing to read your leader rejoicing over the difficulties encountered in establishing the greatest library in the world.

Not to complete this imaginative cultural enterprise will be to perpetuate a fragmented library service across a number of sites and to threaten the preservation of national collections of incalculable value which are currently housed in disgraceful storage conditions: they will suffer increasingly if they continue to be ferried between buildings.

Your leader, in discussing the bricks and mortar of public works, cites the Paris Métro in praiseworthy terms. It is, however, the bricklaying of knowledge and the cementing of higher education which the British Library is so uniquely poised to help fulfil. This vital function is fully recognised in Paris by the official support given to the new Bibliothèque de France, which will not only house books and manuscripts but also the multi-media collections so important to future learning.

The British Library as an institution exemplifies vision and confidence. This great venture deserves to be safeguarded against philistinism. If the new library is not completed as planned, we shall have missed the opportunity to reaffirm this country's leadership in the provision of research libraries, scholarship and information.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
2 Ripplavale Grove, N1,
November 7.

The test of time

From Mr D. T. Nolf

Sir, Mr D. T. Thorne (letter, November 9) wondered if Lord Coolsfield set a record when he founded a decision on the *Institutes of Justinian*.

While it may be a record in England, in Scotland we expect our judges to get to the root of the question, and they frequently oblige.

In 1916 two unfortunates in Glasgow were charged with an offence "contrary to the Act 1 James VI cap. 14, and the 18th chapter of Leviticus therein referred to". For those of your readers who do not have a law library to hand, the Act referred to was the 1567 Incost Act.

The report (1917 JC 8) shows that a full bench of seven judges of the High Court of Justiciary studied Leviticus to see what the precise offence was.

Quoting Justinian is really quite small fry, north of the border.

Yours sincerely,
T. NOLF,
6c Dunbar Street,
Old Aberdeen,
November 10.

From Mr R. M. Maxtone Graham

Sir, The English statutory release of most debtors from legal action after six years is thought by some to have its origin in the 15th chapter of Deuteronomy, verses 1, 12 and 18. (See *The Influence of Mosaic Law upon Subsequent Legislation* by J. B. Marsden, London, 1862, cited in *Sources and Literature of Scots Law*, Stair Society's Vol. I, 1936, pp 235-240.)

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MAXTONE GRAHAM,
6 Moat Sole,
Sandwich, Kent,
November 9.

Sports letters, page 44

مكتبة القرآن

OBITUARIES

SIR JOHN SUMMERSON

Sir John Summermon, CH, CBE, architectural historian, died on November 10 aged 87. He was born on November 25, 1904.

JOHN Summermon was one of the most distinguished historians of British architecture of all periods, a fine scholar with a perceptive eye and profound feeling for buildings. He was one of the first of a new breed in Britain, employing language quite different from that of the architectural historians of the previous generation like Blomfield and Gough, who were practising architects still using the traditional stylistic vocabulary.

Summermon, though trained as an architect, was profoundly influenced by the wave of German art historians who fled to London from Nazi Germany, notably Rudolf Wittkower and Nikolaus Pevsner. His writings and lectures, ranging across four centuries, from Elizabethan to Victorian, were a major influence on at least two generations of young architectural historians. He was curator of Sir John Soane's museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields from 1945 to 1984.

John Summermon was educated at Harrow and at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College, London. After qualifying as an architect he worked for short periods in various architectural offices, including those of W. D. Caroe and Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, but he soon gave up the practice of the profession for teaching and writing.

He was instructor at the School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art, from 1929 to 1930 and from 1934 to 1941 was assistant editor of *The Architect and Building News*. Before this he had already embarked on historical writing, and in 1935 he published his first book, *John Nash, Architect to George IV*, still the outstanding work on that man. Summermon himself declared that he "set out to make an historic architect look like a real person" — he succeeded.

From 1941 to 1945 he was deputy director of the National Buildings Record and walked the streets of London taking his own photographs of endangered buildings. He lectured on the history of architecture at the Architectural Association (1949-62) and at Birkbeck College, London (1950-67). He was Slade Professor of Fine Art at Oxford in 1958-59 and at Cambridge in 1966-67. He was Ferens Professor of Fine Art at Hull in 1960-61 and 1970-71 and held lectureships at several American universities.

He was a first-rate lecturer in spite

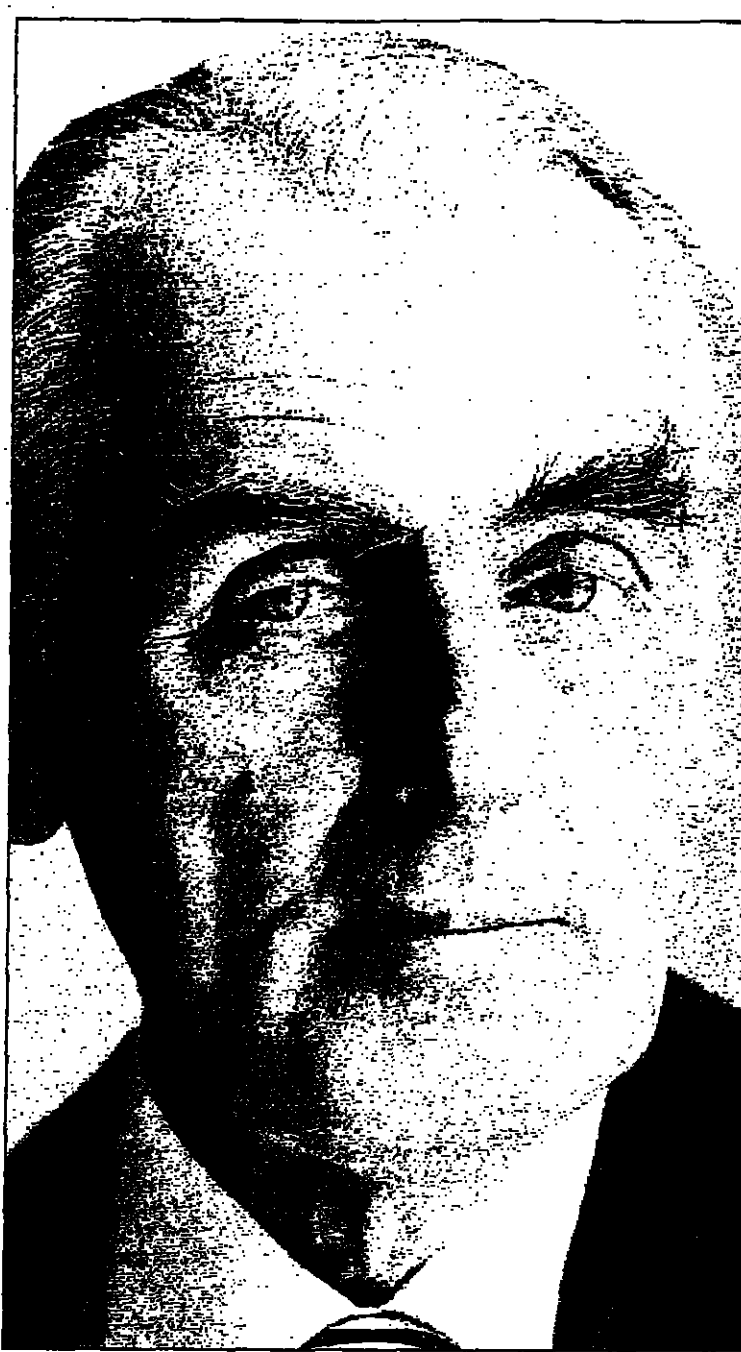
of a somewhat aloof, and seemingly haughty style, which was much in vogue among certain art historians at the time. He was also an effective broadcaster and was heard regularly on the Third Programme. Both as a writer and as a speaker he was remarkable for his polished elegance and fluency, peppered by a dry wit.

Georgian London, published in 1945, was the first major attempt to examine in detail the whole fabric of a city, looking beyond great buildings to the standard terrace housing of the period. It was revised and republished only four years ago. *Georgian London* was followed by a biography of Sir John Soane (1952) and modest but illuminating books on Sir Christopher Wren (1953) and Inigo Jones (1966); in fact all Summermon's historical writing contained judgements and insights elegantly expressed in what Sir John Betjeman once described as his "cool, Harrovian prose", which threw light far beyond whatever specialised subject he happened to be treating. Summermon was rather less complimentary about Betjeman, which he once described as a "self-propagating cult". Many insights are to be found in Summermon's exceptionally perceptive book of essays, *Heavenly Mansions*, published in 1949. Another piece of historical writing was his *Architecture in Britain, 1530-1830* in the Pelican History of Art series, published in 1953.

In 1976 and 1982 he contributed two volumes to *The History of the Kings Works*, the scholarly study of royal and official patronage of architecture over the centuries edited by Howard Colvin. Among his other books were *The Classical Language of Architecture* (1964) and *The London Building World of the Eighteenth Century* (1974). In 1990 there appeared an anthology of his more ephemeral writings under the title *The Unromantic Castle*.

Summermon was a member of the Royal Fine Art Commission from 1947 to 1954 and was continuously active on ministerial and other committees concerned with historic buildings. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments from 1953 to 1974 and of the Historic Buildings Council from 1953 to 1978.

He was on the Listed Buildings committee of the then Ministry of Housing from 1944 to 1966 and its chairman in 1960-62. He was a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery from 1966 to 1973. All these bodies found his knowledge and judgement wholly to be relied on. He



was also chairman, from 1961-1970, of the National Council for Diplomas in Art and Design, but modern art education was not a subject in which he was so much at home and there was some criticism that the Council's recommendations did not meet contemporary needs.

John Summermon was created CBE in 1952, elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1944, knighted in 1958 and appointed Companion

of Honour in 1987. In 1976 he was awarded the Royal Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He was given honorary degrees by Leicester, Oxford, Hull and Edinburgh Universities.

Although, after giving up his post on *The Architect and Building News*, he concerned himself less with modern developments, he continued to be a perceptive, if unpredictable, judge of modern buildings. In 1955 he

helped to organise an influential Arts Council exhibition of modern English architecture for which he wrote a brilliant catalogue introduction.

Summermon's years at the Soane were marked by a remarkable piety not only to the work of Soane but to those who had been there earlier as curators, notably Arthur Bolton. Generally he preferred the past. While others might have been tempted to modernise both the organisation and presentation of the collections, Summermon worked on an antique typewriter, amassing callers by answering most calls himself on the museum's only telephone. When expansion was needed to cater for the increasing number of students coming to look at architectural drawings, it was done discreetly in 1970-72 in an adjoining house.

He published *A New Description of Sir John Soane's Museum* in 1953, and his Saturday afternoon tours of the museum were known to cognoscenti as far and away the best in London.

In the 1980s he played a prominent part in the campaign to restore the 17th century pillar that had once stood in the centre of the Seven Dials road intersection between Shaftesbury Avenue and Covent Garden and which gave it its name.

The project was finally achieved in 1990. Summermon's reserved and sometimes severe manner concealed a dry, sharp humour. His opinions were positive, but when expressed in public were sometimes deliberately provocative. He was fond, for example, of testing out the climate of a meeting by making some outrageous statement and then sitting back, completely impassive, while others argued round it. Later, quite unabashed, he would speak out from the opposite point of view, leaving the meeting deflated and confused. The most extreme example of this contrariness came when he was asked to Dublin to support the fight for a long run of Georgian houses in Fitzwilliam Street which the Electricity Board was seeking to demolish. Summermon's crushing judgement "that damned house after another" struck the preservation of Georgian Dublin, a far more complete Georgian city than London, for years.

His friends knew him as a fundamentally kindly man, and he was an outstandingly amusing conversationalist once his reserve was broken down. In 1938 Summermon married Elizabeth Alison Hepworth, a sister of the late Dame Barbara Hepworth, the sculptor. They had triplet sons.

VERNON MORGAN

Vernon Morgan, OBE, ODM, Olympic athlete and journalist, died on October 23 aged 88. He was born at Hale, Cheshire, on May 2, 1904.



VERNON Morgan devoted his life to sports and Olympic ideals as an athlete and a journalist, roaming the world in both capacities, principally as Reuters sports editor for more than 30 years.

A competitor in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics steeplechase, which was dominated by the legendary Paavo Nurmi and his Finnish team mates, he moved into sports journalism and reported every Winter and Summer Olympic Games for Reuters from 1936 to 1968. On retirement after the Mexico Games, he was awarded the Olympic Diploma of Merit, one of only ten people to receive this high honour. His appointment as OBE in 1963 acknowledged his services to sport.

Morgan drew much of his inspiration from the 1924 Paris Olympics and was a consultant on the film script of *Chariots of Fire*, which told of the stirring British victories of Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell.

Throughout his life he was devoted to the amateur code he grew up with and to the British Olympic Association. He deplored the rise of professionalism and in his last formal appearance at an IOC event, in 1973 in Varna, Bulgaria, at the Olympic Congress, he made a passionate speech condemning the state sponsorship of athletes in socialist nations. Weeks before his death, television coverage of the World Athletics Championships sent him back to the dictionary to fathom the meaning of "amateur".

Educated at Charterhouse and the winner of several public schools athletics championships, he went up to Christ Church, Oxford, in 1923, and won his blue in athletics, cross-country and football, as well as playing hockey.

He played one football game for Manchester United in 1925 against the Corinthian Casuals. A tour of Western

Canada with Corinthians cost him the opportunity of a second Olympic Games.

One of his proudest achievements was the mile he ran in Durban in 1929 for a touring Achilles team in four minutes 16.2/5 seconds. It stood as the South African All-Comers record for more than 20 years.

He joined Reuters as a trainee journalist in 1931 and became sports editor in 1933. He was a correspondent during the Russo-Finnish war of 1939-40 and, when health ruled out active military service, worked in London editorial posts while serving in the Home Guard.

During his career, he filed reports from 60 countries and was fondly known as "Baron Reuter" to a generation of international sports reporters.

Knowing the worldwide influence of Reuters, Goebbel's ensured Morgan had the best press seats for the 1936 Berlin Olympics. President Peron flew him to Buenos Aires in 1952 for a football international against Spain.

Always a fanatic about his physical fitness, even in his late fifties, he roused his much younger staff for a dawn swim in the Indian Ocean before embarking on another 18-hour work day at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth, Western Australia, in 1962. He played golf well into his last decade. Long a member of the Clothworkers, he was, at the time of his death, the oldest living Freeman of the City of London. His wife died in 1978 and he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.1(2)(b)
TALBOT TRADING LIMITED
In Liquidation

Voluntary Liquidation
Notice is hereby given that I, James Brendan O'Connell, Chartered Accountant, of London, England, have been appointed Liquidator of the above named company in pursuance of a resolution passed at a meeting of the shareholders of the company held on 10 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 12 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 13 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 14 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 15 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 16 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 17 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 18 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 19 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 20 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 21 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 22 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 23 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 24 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 25 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 26 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 27 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 28 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 29 November 1992. I shall be available to receive creditors' claims at my office, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0JH, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 30 November 1992. 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NEWS

Church split after vote on women

■ The Church of England faced a deep rift within its ranks last night after the Synod voted by a margin of only two votes to ordain women priests. Opponents had warned of the dangers to church unity.

■ Supporters were involved in emotional scenes of celebration when the result was announced, but the Vatican said the vote was a "new and grave obstacle" to relations between the Anglican and Catholic churches. Pages 1, 5

Lamont pay freeze for three years

■ Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will announce cutbacks in his Autumn Statement today which will include a three-year freeze on the wages of five million public servants covering the period up to the likely date of the next election. Pages 1, 13

Talking harmony

John Major won vital German endorsement yesterday from the chancellor, Helmut Kohl, for the government's delay in ratifying the Maastricht treaty. The two leaders also agreed on ways of avoiding a trade war and found common ground on the European fighter project. Pages 1, 16

Iraq arms questions

Opposition parties accused the government yesterday of helping to arm Iraq with weapons which were used in the Gulf war. John Major was challenged by Paddy Ashdown over his knowledge of the arms build up, while John Smith questioned the supply of equipment used against British troops. Pages 1, 2, 18

Mortgage trap

By the end of next year, more than three million homeowners could be trapped in houses worth less than the size of their mortgages. Page 10

Israel bias

The Clinton administration intends to end an American foreign-policy bias towards the Arabs in the Middle East and will adopt a more robust support of Israel, the president-elect has said in an interview which was published yesterday. Page 15

Bush wake

President Bush had to brush away tears at a dinner for 160 top Republicans in Washington at which he handed over the party leadership to Senator Rob-

ert Dole, whom he defeated for the presidential nomination in 1988. He said he had not wanted to attend what he expected would be a wake. Page 16

Hi-tech rescue

Experiences suffered by hundreds of people caught in fires, including those hurt in the King's Cross Tube inferno, have been incorporated in a computer programme which could help to improve safety in buildings and public places. Page 6

Health ratings

The government has indicated that it supports the idea of health authorities rationing health care by focusing on treatments that have proved effective in saving money. Page 9

Russian Archers

British experts, led by the author and editor Liz Rigby, who honed their production talents on *The Archers*, are helping to produce a Russian radio soap opera which will be broadcast daily from January. Page 10

Going home

Valerio Vicci, who masterminded the £40 million Knightsbridge safe-deposit robbery in 1987, and boasted in his autobiography published earlier this year that the raid yielded £60 million from 120 boxes, was returned to Italy yesterday, handcuffed to a guard, to serve the rest of his 22-year sentence and answer questions about 57 other robberies. Page 6

Rare steaks for Christmas table

A butcher in Whitey Bay has thrown a cat among the Christmas pigeons by offering llama steaks and wild boar or ostrich sausages as festive fare. The British Camellid Owners and Breeders Association meets this weekend and will discuss the ethics of Mrs Shirley Van der Laan's exotic approach to her business. Page 6



English view: John Major and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, at Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire, yesterday. Pages 1 and 16

BUSINESS

Sogo shosha: The trading groups that dominate life in Japan are the world's five biggest companies. Out of the world's top 50 industrial companies 17 are Japanese, according to *The Times* 1000 review of world players. Page 25

Mines hope: The 31 threatened coal mines could be saved, along with 30,000 jobs, if just half the redundancy costs were put towards expanding the coal market. This was the view expressed by Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, in evidence given to the House of Commons trade and industry select committee. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 17.8 points to 2696.8 ahead of the Autumn Statement. Sterling fell from DM2.4214 to DM2.4179 but rose from \$1.5160 to \$1.5245 leaving the trade-weighted index unchanged at 77.9. Page 28

FOOTBALL

Football: Sheffield Wednesday yesterday rejected an estimated offer of £4 million from Manchester United for David Hirst, their England striker, and criticised the Old Trafford club for having made public their interest in the player. Page 48

Bleak future: The immediate future looks bleak for Leeds United, last season's English champions. Short on technique and with an ageing squad, they have gone seven games without victory and seem unlikely to recapture their collective form. Stuart Jones. Page 46

Dirty talk: In a series of seminars in Paris more than half a century ago, the Surrealists thrashed out their views of sexuality. Andy Martin is surprised by their disappointing lack of perversity. Page 19

Cutting edge: Keyhole techniques have revolutionised surgery over the past ten years but now drawbacks are starting to emerge. Ann Kent reports. Page 19

Valerie Groves: The controversial former trade minister Alan Clark, whose evidence at the Old Bailey helped to clear three executives in the Matrix Churchill affair, is the subject. Page 18

High tech, low fares: Robert Redford's latest film, *Sneakers*, extracts fun and games from the microchip world of computer sleuthing; while *Peter's Friends* proves to be a lame reunion of Kenneth Branagh's friends. Page 39

Arty birds: Timberlake Wertenbaker's smash-hit satire of the art market, *Three Birds Alighting on a Field*, has returned to the Royal Court Theatre for an autumn run. Page 40

In father's footsteps: With John Cheever as his dad, there can be little wonder that Benjamin Cheever's first novel is about a novelist trying to escape from the shadow of his famous father. Page 41

The Times guide: A brief history and the pertinent points, by Peter Riddell; what will happen to the houseowner, by Richard Kelly and the Jubilee line, by Michael Dynes. Page 13

Salvador Dali: A new biography reveals the bearded-eyed instigator for fame and money beneath the vainglorious gestures. Page 36

Saul Bellow: Three new short stories by the American Nobel laureate. Page 37

Jeffrey Bernard: A national institution? Valerie Groves is sceptical. Page 37

Manipulating minds

We Have Ways of Making You Think (BBC2) is the first in a series of three documentaries on the manipulative uses of film and television. It features a profile of Hitler's propaganda minister Josef Goebbels. Page 47

Eve ordained

The task of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, must now be to minimise the destructive effect of this historic vote, while standing unequivocally by the line principles that it endorses. Page 21

Autumn fruits

Today's Autumn Statement offers Norman Lamont a slim chance to justify his continuation as Chancellor. It also presents John Major with an opportunity to restore his political credibility — which is rather more important. Page 21

Man bites dog

In the history of man's inhumanity to other animals, the docking of puppy-dog tails is a small matter. The proposed ban by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons would be a purely cosmetic improvement. Page 21

BRUCE ANDERSON

Mr Lamont has a dual problem. In order to solve it, he will have to copy both Margaret Thatcher and William Macawber. Page 18

BERNARD LEVIN

What from my tongue, and indeed caused me again and again to believe my eyes, was the exhibition of *The Art of Ancient Mexico*. I have sympathy with Buridan's ass, so great is the array of beauty, majesty, fear, simplicity, strangeness... and wonder. Page 18

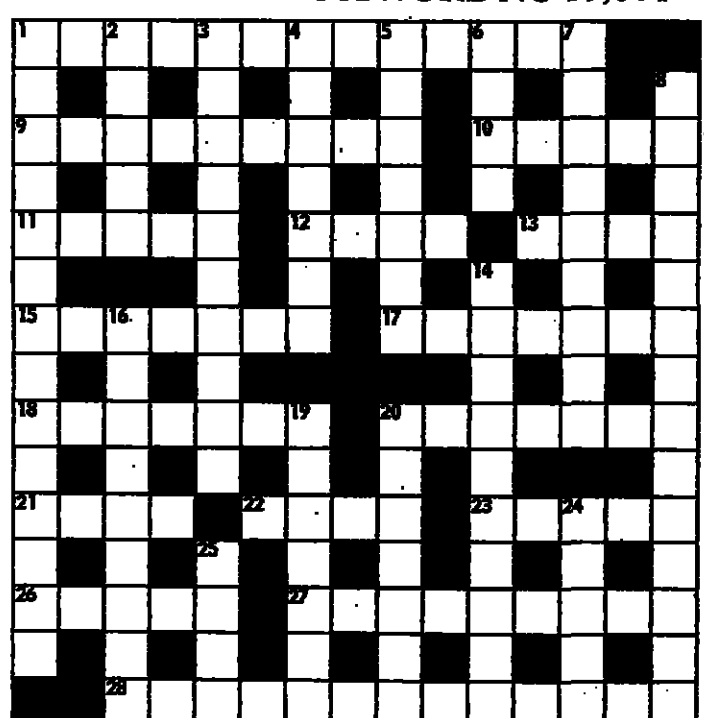
JANET DALEY

Attitudes to sex in the broadcasting survey, and, not to be forgotten, sexuality, are sorted into categories which are as arbitrary as their findings are contradictory. Page 18

The arms-for-Iraq trial of three former Matrix Churchill executives is described as a prime example of government departments squandering their time and resources and failing to co-operate. Page 21

If Iraq had not had the bad judgment to invade Kuwait, it might well possess at least a rudimentary nuclear weapon by this time. *The Washington Post*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,074



ACROSS

- Illusory happiness of asses approaching animal park (5,8).
- Eager to travel a small distance free (9).
- Girl misses end of scherzo from symphony (5).
- Injury restricting Oriental wives and concubines (5).
- Island without a single channel for distributing water (4).
- Meeting-points for first of ramblers leaving Channel Islands (4).
- Pole enters occupied territory in pursuit of gold fabric (7).
- Mournful songwriter for English stage is at wit's end (7).
- Vain American recognized by the French in their art (7).
- Drive back giving soldiers a beating (7).
- In conversation sister takes no part (4).

DOWN

- Interval before writer becomes infiltrator (5-9).
- Your, and my, party held in such regard (5).
- Amphibian's adaptation of sea-arm and land (10).
- A new object thus to reverse olfactory deficiency (7).
- Drink we introduce if fish appears (7).
- A household article in the news (4).
- Tiro ideal to become leader (9).
- The average person has a way to accommodate him (3,2,3,6).
- Go and allow workmen finally to enter plant (10).
- Curry never served up inside the actors' retreat (5-4).
- Elaborate clasp on the Spanish knife (7).
- Illegally manipulating the shrouds and stays (7).
- Fish is excellent for some (5).
- Leading character in the Roman Empire (4).

Concise Crossword, page 48

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0851 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of England	702
North East & NW	703
West Midlands	704
West of England	705
North West	706
Yorkshire & Lancashire	707
North East & NW	708
West Midlands	709
West of England	710
North West	711
Yorkshire & Lancashire	712
North East & NW	713
West Midlands	714
West of England	715
North West	716
Yorkshire & Lancashire	717
North East & NW	718
West Midlands	719
West of England	720
North West	721
Yorkshire & Lancashire	722
North East & NW	723
West Midlands	724
West of England	725
North West	726
Yorkshire & Lancashire	727
North East & NW	728
West Midlands	729
West of England	730
North West	731
Yorkshire & Lancashire	732
North East & NW	733
West Midlands	734
West of England	735
North West	736
Yorkshire & Lancashire	737
North East & NW	738
West Midlands	739
West of England	740
North West	741
Yorkshire & Lancashire	742
North East & NW	743
West Midlands	744
West of England	745
North West	746
Yorkshire & Lancashire	747
North East & NW	748
West Midlands	749
West of England	750
North West	751
Yorkshire & Lancashire	752
North East & NW	753
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West of England	755
North West	756
Yorkshire & Lancashire	757
North East & NW	758
West Midlands	759
West of England	760
North West	761
Yorkshire & Lancashire	762
North East & NW	763
West Midlands	764
West of England	765
North West	766
Yorkshire & Lancashire	767
North East & NW	768
West Midlands	769
West of England	770
North West	771
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West Midlands	789
West of England	790
North West	791
Yorkshire & Lancashire	792
North East & NW	793
West Midlands	794
West of England	795
North West	796
Yorkshire & Lancashire	797
North East & NW	798
West Midlands	799
West of England	800

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0850 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Cls.)

M. London (within M4-M1)

N. London (within N4-N1)

S. London (within S4-S1)

SE London (within SE4-SE1)

SW London (within SW4-SW1)

W London (within W4-W1)

North London (within N4-N1)

South London (within S4-S1)

East London (within E4-E1)

West London (within W4-W1)

Central London (within C4-C1)

Outer London (within O4-O1)

Suburban London (within S4-S1)

Rural London (within R4-R1)

Urban London (within U4-U1)

Suburban London (within S4-S1)

Rural London (within R4-R1)

Urban London (within U4-U1)

Suburban London (within S4-S1)

Rural London (within R4-R1)

Urban London (within U4-U1)

It will be a bright, chilly but

showery day across many parts of the British Isles. The showers will be heaviest and most persistent in the north and west, with hail and perhaps some snow over northern hills. Eastern and southern areas will be brighter, with only isolated showers. It will be a windy day, away from the north-west, most places will become dry this evening. Outlook: many places fine at first, before rain spreads from the west.

MEDLEY: 1=thunder, 2=drizzle, 3=fog, 4=sun, 5=rain, 6=cloud, 7=rain, 8=sun, 9=rain, 10=sun, 11=rain, 12=sun

Sum Rain In C F

Aberdeen 3.7 0.04 7 45 bright

Amsterdam 2.0 0.01 8 46 bright

Birmingham 4.0 0.03 10 50 shower

Bombay 2.0 0.01 8 46 bright

Boston 5.1 0.14 10 50 shower

Buenos Aires 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Cardiff 6.0 0.25 10 50 shower

Castell 2.0 0.12 8 46 bright

Cebu 0.6 0.19 8 46 shower

Colon 3.5 0.07 8 46 cloudy

Dublin 0.2 0.05 8 46 shower

Edinburgh 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Geneva 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Hankow 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Hong Kong 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Kobe 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

London 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Lyons 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Manila 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Medan 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Moscow 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Paris 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Peking 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Rangoon 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

San Francisco 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Seoul 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Singapore 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Sourabaya 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Taipei 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

Tokyo 2.1 0.01 8 46 bright

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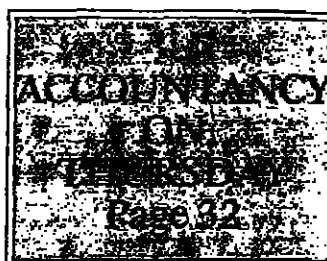
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Forecast 10.15 pm

Branagh's 'lazy' performance in Peter's Friends

The gentler, more mellow mood of Saul Bellow

Accrington Stanley's return to glory



THE TIMES 2

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 1992

C&W links with Canadians in Mercury venture

By PATRICIA TEEHAN

CABLE and Wireless is to sell a 20 per cent stake in its Mercury subsidiary for £480 million to BCE, the Canadian telecommunications group, in a move it hopes will help open the domestic telephone market.

At the same time, C&W will invest £30 million in BCE's UK cable television interests, whose franchises cover 60 per cent of London's homes.

BCE is Canada's biggest company and parent company of Bell Canada, the country's leading telecommunications services supplier.

This is C&W's third attempt to find a North American partner to inject cash into Mercury and strengthen its links with the UK cable television industry, which is a key to Mercury's attempts to break into the local telephone market. Previous talks with AT&T, the US group, and with US West, a regional Bell operating company, foundered.

Lord Young, C&W chairman, said the tie-up with BCE was the best deal. The two sides are presenting the deal as the first of a series of partnerships in Europe. Jacques Bérubé, BCE president, said: "The partnership with C&W and Mercury opens the possibility of a common investment in the future."

Lord Young said Europe was "a sea of monopolies at the moment" but he hoped C&W and BCE would build on their partnership to expand

■ Lord Young, the Cable and Wireless chairman, hailed the sale of one fifth of the Mercury telephone network to Bell Canada as a new partnership for European expansion

into Europe when markets began to open up.

The deal, which is due to be completed in January, will reduce C&W's debts from £612 million at the end of March 1992 to £162 million and will cut its gearing from 26 per cent to 6 per cent.

BCE will take 20 per cent of Mercury through subscription for new equity. The deal will leave Mercury virtually debt-free. BCE will appoint two directors to the Mercury board, but C&W will retain overall control.

C&W will take an initial 12 per cent of BCE's cable interests through a combination of equity and convertible securities. On conversion this will leave C&W with a 20 per cent stake. As BCE is paying a premium over Mercury's £1.13 billion net asset value, due to a consolidation adjustment, C&W will report a £300 million exceptional credit in its profit and loss account.

Lord Young dismissed speculation that the tie-up would lead to a separate stock market listing for Mercury. He said: "We have no plans for a separate listing for Mercury. We see this as a separate investment and we have no plans for anything else."

Mercury was set up in 1982 to compete with BT. To date, it has concentrated on the international calls market and on competing with BT for business customers.

The cost of building up a telephone network has limited Mercury's total share of the UK's telecom market to 7 per cent, but it has won a 50 per cent share of the international leased lines and international telex traffic markets.

C&W hopes the link with BCE will help Mercury win a 20 per cent share of the domestic market over the next few years. Mercury has 250,000 indirectly connected residential customers and is adding to them at a rate of 10,000 lines a month. It also has 80,000 lines connected through agreements with cable television companies.

BCE has 80.4 per cent of East London Telecommunications and 30.7 per cent in Videotron. Together these hold 14 franchises in central London, covering 1.6 million homes, and also have franchises in Winchester, Southampton, and other areas. The franchise areas also cover 120,000 small businesses.

Continued, page 29



Lines open: Lord Young, right, with Mercury chief executive Mike Harris, left, and Jacques Bérubé, BCE president

GRE fined £100,000 overagents

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange was fined £100,000 and ordered to pay substantial costs by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Laurio) after admitting two charges of misconduct involving two tied agents.

The insurer will also pay compensation to clients of the two firms, Centrust and Coventry Investments Group. To date, GRE has claims totalling about £500,000 from 100 investors. It asks any others to come forward.

The two firms had a total of 1,500 GRE policyholders on their books. All have been contacted by the insurer.

GRE was charged with failing to have adequate arrangements for monitoring employees of tied agents. The charges related to a period of almost three years, to February 1991.

At the time, GRE had 900 tied agents, since reduced to 500. It has implemented changes to its control procedures to prevent rule breaches in future.

This is the largest fine yet imposed by Laurio since it started imposing fines this year. Anyone wanting to make a claim should write to Alan Cantor, Guardian Royal Exchange, Ballam Road, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, FY8 4JZ.

NatWest cuts business MLR

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster, Britain's largest lender to small businesses, has dropped its minimum lending rates to ensure that companies receive the full benefits of the expected interest rate cut to be announced by the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement today.

The bank is deflecting anger among its small business customers who realised they would not receive any benefit from lower interest rates due to existing agreements. Kevin Jennings, director of commercial banking services, denied the bank had been pressurised

by the government or the Treasury. "I am not aware that we have been leant on. We have been planning this for a couple of weeks," he said.

The bank agreed to drop its minimum lending rate by more than 1.5 percentage points to 6 per cent. Until now most of its business loans were based on a 7.5 per cent minimum rate.

Under the old regime NatWest business customers would have received little or no benefit from the interest rate cut which is expected today. Now their borrowing rates will

continue to fall unless base rates fall below 6 per cent.

NatWest has more than 1 million small business customers and they typically borrow at 3.5 per cent over base, or 11.5 per cent at present. But their loan agreements all include a clause that prevent the rate falling below 11 per cent. The decision is likely to put deposit rates under pressure. If there is a 2 per cent cut in the base rate, interest on savings accounts could fall as low as 3 per cent.

Letters, page 21

Coal pay-offs 'should be used to boost market'

By ROSS TYEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S 31 threatened coal mines, as well as the jobs of 30,000 miners, could be saved if just half the £1 billion set aside by the government for redundancy payments were applied to expanding coal markets, said Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader.

"Recent movements in exchange rates now mean that 50 per cent of Britain's pits are fully competitive with internationally traded coal, and within three years all 51 pits can be fully competitive," he told the Commons trade and industry select committee.

Mr Scargill said closing Britain's oldest nuclear power stations, the Magnox plants, halting imports of "subsidised" French atomic power, stemming the switch to gas-fired generation and opening continental markets to British coal could result in an enlarged market of 100 million tonnes of coal a year.

Mr Scargill attacked the

failings of the electricity pool, or spot market, and the inequitable structure of privatisation. "If we were operating in a truly free-market economy, the nuclear industry would not survive," he said.

"It cannot be justifiable to build unnecessary gas-fired power stations costing 3p to 3.3p per Kwh compared to 1.9p to 2.2p for coal, or 2.42p when fitted with clean coal technology."

Mr Scargill urged the government to switch £200 million of the £1.2 billion annual nuclear power subsidy to the coal industry. He said the money would provide the necessary improvements in productivity to enable the coal industry to lower its prices to competitive levels.

Closing all 31 pits would cost £2.1 billion. In addition, Mr Scargill said, taxpayers would have to find £240 million a year to provide benefits for the 30,000 unemployed

miners, and a further £560 million a year to support 70,000 workers in related industries who would lose their jobs.

In earlier submissions, the Trades Union Congress called on the government to remove distortions in the "rigged" electricity market, which were costing miners their jobs.

British Gas, in its written response to the committee, said the government must develop a social consensus on the "price" to be paid for a diversified energy industry and environmental safeguards, and that energy markets worked competitively within that framework.

Bob Evans, the chairman, acknowledged the absurdity of the situation. He agreed that British Gas was trying to choke off demand for gas to burn in power stations at the same time as British Coal's market is being eroded.

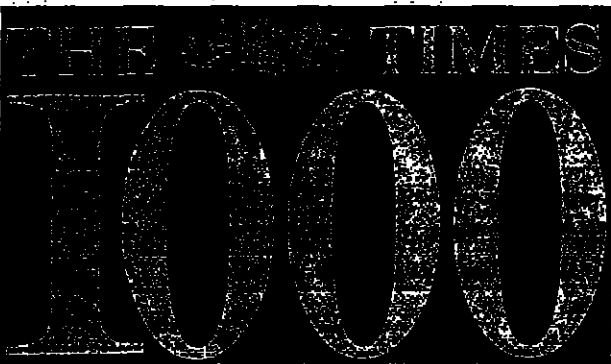
Japanese top the league of giants

By JON ASHWORTH

SHARES in Japan may have fallen out of bed but the giant corporations grow bigger and bigger. The world's five biggest industrial companies by sales are now Japanese, the umbrella trading groups that dominate Japanese life, and 17 of the top 50 are Japanese.

The top spot goes to C Itoh, a trading conglomerate with annual sales of £87 billion according to the latest Times 1000, which covers 1991. The group changed its name to Itochu last month. Mitsui, another trading giant, is second and Sumitomo, top for the past two years, slips to third place.

By sales, the UK shows up poorly in a list dominated by Japan and America. BP, with sales of £41 billion, is at number 12, the only truly British company in the top 50. Royal Dutch/Shell comes in eighth after Exxon, the US oil & gas giant. Unilever, the



Anglo-Dutch foods-to-soap powder group, is 29th.

In Europe, however, the UK has held its own comfortably. Twenty-four of the top 50 companies in Europe by market capitalisation are British, in a list headed by Royal Dutch/Shell at £40 billion.

BT shoots up from 25th to second place at £19 billion, followed by Glaxo, Unilever, BP, Nestlé, Daimler-Benz, SmithKline Beecham, Siemens and British Gas. BT was

the UK's most profitable company in the 1991-2 financial year, a fact few telephone subscribers will have missed. Pre-tax profits of £3 billion worked out at 97p a second.

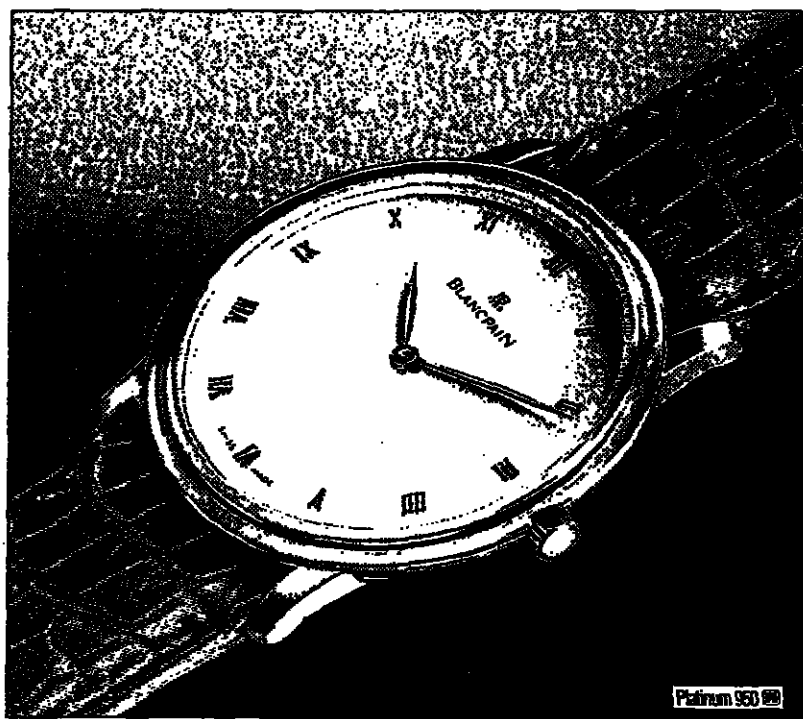
Shell Transport and Trading, with profits of £2.2 billion, was second in the profits league, followed by Hanson and Glaxo. BP, which saw profits tumble from £2.8 billion to £1.2 billion, was relegated to fifth place. British Gas dropped to 11th place as

profits fell from £1.8 billion to £869 million. The other top ten players were BAT Industries, SmithKline Beecham, Grand Metropolitan, Guinness and BTR.

The UK's largest takeover bid of the period was HSBC Holdings' £3.1 billion punt for Midland Bank. Hanson is in second place thanks to its £1.6 billion bid for Beazer.

Hanson has just walked away from a £790 million offer for Rank's Hovis McDougall, the milling and baking group, and still fires occasional broadsides at ICI, in which it held a 2.8 per cent stake "for investment purposes" for a year.

Talk of possible bids for PowerGen and Canary Wharf came to nothing and Hanson has just been "pumped" in its bid for Costain's Australian coal mining business. □ The Times 1000: 1992-1993, published by Times Books, goes on sale tomorrow, priced £29.50.

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Bank hails new role in fighting inflation

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton has hailed the Bank of England's new task of publicly reporting progress in the inflation fight as a "giant leap".

In a lecture at the London School of Economics last night, the Governor said the quarterly inflation reports will be forward looking, and will not merely provide a comprehensive guide to the past performance of a number of measures of inflation.

The report — the first will appear in the Bank's February *Quarterly Bulletin* — is intended to provide an objective and comprehensive analysis of inflationary trends and pressures. The Governor said the bank would invite critics of the analysis to join in the debate on technical matters.

He said the changes went a considerable way to making policy more open and accountable to both Parliament and the public. He said the report, one of the innovations Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, announced last month to fill the policy vacuum left by the pound's exit from the ex-

■ The Bank of England quarterly inflation report will look forward to the short and medium term. The report is intended to fill the policy vacuum left by ERM withdrawal

change-rate mechanism, would have to "take account of likely future developments, in both the short and medium terms, especially in the light of our own actions".

Mr Lamont set out in a letter to the Commons Treasury select committee last month that his anti-inflationary policy would include a formal target range of 1 to 4 per cent for annual retail price inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments. Data out tomorrow are expected to show that underlying inflation slowed to an annual 3.9 per cent in October from 4 per cent in September.

Despite the government's decision to adopt a growth-oriented policy, Mr Leigh-Pemberton issued a warning that if the recent easing of monetary policy began to threaten the government's medium-term goal of price stability, the

authorities would have "no hesitation in reversing it".

He said the intention was to escape the boom-bust cycle of previous years, so nobody should believe that easier policy now would necessarily mean easier policy forever.

The City is eagerly awaiting measures, including a further cut in the base rate to help lift the economy out of recession, in Mr Lamont's Autumn Statement this afternoon.

With currency markets discounting a one-point cut in base rates this week, the pound slipped back to DM2.4179 at the 4pm London close, down more than a quarter of a pence. The pound gained more than three quarters of a cent to \$1.5245, but the trade-weighted index sunk at 79.9, matching the record closing low.

Comment, page 29



Contribution: Karl Lagerfeld's business helped turnover

Dunhill plans to invest

By MARTIN WALLER

DUNHILL Holdings, the cash-rich luxury goods group, is no longer relying on acquisitions for future growth but will instead use its huge cash pile to invest in the company's brands, which include Alfred Dunhill, Montblanc pens and the Chloé fashion house.

Lord Douro, the chairman, denied as "absolutely without foundation" reports that his company was poised to buy a half-stake in Gucci, the Italian fashion house.

Dunhill, which had more than £160 million in the bank at September 30, the half-year end, will invest instead in distribution networks for Dunhill goods.

Dunhill announced a fall in half-year pre-tax profits to £30.1 million from £30.8 million.

The dividend is raised from 2.75p to 2.9p. Acquisitions, such as the fashion business Karl Lagerfeld, bought for less than £16 million in July, contributed £19.5 million to turnover that rose from £113.8 million to £138.1 million, but chipped in little in the way of profits.

Dunhill shares dropped 9p to 384p.

Peabody sues Costain over sale of business

COSTAIN Group, the British construction concern, is strongly denying any breach of an exclusivity agreement with Peabody, the Hanson subsidiary, as a result of the company's decision to sell its Australian businesses to Almus Finance, of France. Peabody has sued Costain in the St Louis circuit court in Missouri, US, over this alleged breach.

Peabody had already agreed in principle to buy Costain's coal mining operations when Hanson lost out to a higher offer from Almus. Peabody claims it had the benefit of a clause giving it first refusal; and that when this expired it was verbally extended by Peter Costain, the Costain chief executive. Costain, while conceding he gave an extension, asserts this had expired by the time he came to agree with Almus.

Bett reduces losses

BETT Brothers, the Scottish housebuilder and property developer, reduced pre-tax losses to £4.2 million (£8.8 million loss) during the year to end-August. The company returned to profit in the second half with a gain of £3.3 million despite deteriorating trading. Losses per share for the year were 19.17p (£7.35p), but the company is not resuming dividend payments. Last year shareholders received 4.2p. Bett said the economic outlook remained difficult. The recession was increasingly affecting Scotland and consumer confidence was still low. The shares were unchanged at 48p.

Manx oil venture

MANX Petroleum has established a joint venture with Tatneft, the Tatarstan national oil company, for the exploration and development of oil and gas resources in Tatarstan with estimated reserves of 820 million barrels of oil. Tatarstan is an independent state about 300 miles east of Moscow and holds one of the ten biggest known oil fields in the world. For the purpose of the joint venture, Manx has formed Manx Geos, a wholly owned subsidiary. Geos will own 49 per cent of the joint venture and drilling rights to the fields with the remainder to be held by Tatneft.

Henry Barrett halted

THE listing in Henry Barrett Group, the steel stockholding and construction materials company, was suspended yesterday "pending clarification of the company's financial position". Barrett is thought to have failed to make a vital disposal aimed at cutting debt. Its steel stockholding side is in healthy shape, but the construction business has almost empty order books, while group debts have grown to approach £20 million. The shares, as high as 115p two years ago, were suspended at 7p.

Cook cuts interim

WILLIAM Cook, a steel castings group, is cutting its interim dividend from 5p to 1.5p after a sharp fall in profits. In the six months to October 3, pre-tax profits fell from £4.05 million to £604,000. British companies earned trading profits of £3.8 million on sales of £46.15 million but Unicast, a US subsidiary, lost £1.11 million on sales of £3.5 million as a result of a collapse in orders and a protracted dispute with unions. The business is to be sold. The shares eased 5p to 91p.

Jessups turns around

JESSUPS, the motor dealer, recovered from full-year losses of £871,000 to earn pre-tax profits of £506,000 in the 12 months to end-August. The final dividend is held at 3p a share, for an unchanged 4.50p total, payable from earnings of 1.05p a share, against losses of 13.26p. Operating profits were almost unchanged at £2.5 million (£2.3 million), but there was a reduction in financing costs from £2.7 million to £1.98 million. In addition, there was no repeat of last year's exceptional charge of £490,000 against restructuring costs.

Shaxson salutes rise

KING & Shaxson Holdings, one of the smaller discount houses acting as intermediaries between the Bank of England and commercial banks, said it made "excellent" profits in the six-months to end-October compared with a small profit in the same period last year. Large profits had come from volatile but predominantly falling interest rates. The Stock Exchange money broker said it had benefited from higher turnover and produced good figures against the corresponding period. The interim dividend is 4p (2½p).

Wardell Roberts falls

WARDELL Roberts, the Dublin food group, saw pre-tax profits fall 4.3 per cent to £1.3 million (£1.4 million) in the six months to end-September. Turnover, excluding discontinued operations, was £119.97 million (£120 million). Earnings per share were 1rs 9p (1rs 4p). There is an unchanged interim dividend of 1rs 2p. The group has completed the disposal of its investment in the UK poultry business. The group has given a warning that trading conditions are more difficult than in the first half.

Bibby pegs payout as profits slip

By OUR CITY STAFF

J BIBBY & Sons, the industrial and agricultural group 79 per cent-owned by Barlow Rand of South Africa, has pegged its final dividend after reporting pre-tax profits of £32.2 million (£35.3 million) in the year to September 26. The acquisition of Spain's main distributor of Caterpillar earth-moving equipment lifted turnover from £547 million to £625 million. A final dividend of 6.9p a share leaves the total for the year unchanged at 9.75p. Earnings per share were 20.09p (20.61p).

Bibby bid £75 million for Finanzauto in April, raising the offer to £86.2 million in June. The deal, seen as an oblique move by Barlow Rand to diversify into mainland Europe via its British subsidiary, was cleared by the European Commission in July. It proved expensive. Bibby launched a £35.6 million rights issue in September to reduce borrowings that boosted the enlarged group's gearing to about 150 per cent. At the year-end, it had fallen to 65.6 per cent. Expenditure on acquisitions during the year was £92 million.

Electronics distributor rises 33%

By JON ASHWORTH

PROFITS rose 33 per cent to £27 million in the six months to end-September at Electronics Distributors, the electronic and electrical parts distributor led by Sir Keith Bright, former head of London Transport. Sales rose 9.5 per cent to £161 million. Earnings per share were 8.42p (6.3p). There is an interim dividend of 2p (1.9p).

The troublesome Misco computer supplies catalogue business, which dragged profits down at the halfway stage last year, is still up for sale. Closure and redundancy costs relating to Misco were written off as an £17.5 million extraordinary item at the previous year end and have not affected the results.

Robert Tomkinson, finance director, said a decision to focus on the core RS businesses was paying off. The group has opened distribution centres in Denmark and Italy, while previous start-ups in Germany and France, the group's other leading continental markets, are making good progress. The shares ended the day unchanged at 328p.

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Hambros to float insurance firms

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HAMBROS, the merchant bank, has confirmed plans to float its insurance businesses early in the new year after pre-tax profits slumped by a third.

The bank hopes to sell up to 49 per cent of an insurance company, which would be valued at up to £80 million. The new company would consist of Cunningham Group, the loss-adjusting company, Hambro Legal Protection, Berkeley Insurance, a specialist advisory business, and Beale Dohie, which specialises in selling second-hand life policies.

Hambros is planning to undergo a complex internal reorganisation to put all four of the companies into one before moving forward to a flotation in March next year.

The float is part of the group's policy to back businesses and then float them on the stock market when they grow large enough to operate independently.

In March, Hambros sold part of its stake in GE Heath, the insurance broker.

Plans for the flotation started in September when Hambros bought 49 per cent of Hambro Legal Protection back from Hambro Country-



Float planners: Charles Tilley, finance director; Chips Keswick and Christopher Sporborg, deputy chairmen; Sir Adam Ridley, communications director

wide, the estate agency. Hambros announced its plans as it announced a 33 per cent fall in pre-tax profit to £25 million in the half year to end September. The group is holding its interim dividend at 4.2p.

The profits were hit by a rise in bad debt provisions. These totalled £9 million in the half

year, compared with £13 million in the whole of the previous year. But Sir Adam Ridley, executive director, stressed that these only totalled 0.4 per cent of the lending book and most of the provisions related to two cases.

Banking profits fell 8 per cent to £37.3 million due to the rise in bad debts. These were

offset by strong profits from treasury and asset finance operations.

The group was again held back by heavy losses at Hambro Countrywide. The losses increased from £4.1 million to £4.6 million. But the group said part of the loss came from an investment in the sales force of Hambro Guardian,

the life insurer. The company also moved briefly into profit during the summer as the end of stamp duty relief prompted a mini-boom in house sales.

Within the bank, Hambros also suffered from a slump in the mergers and acquisitions market. Profits from investment management were also slightly down since interna-

tional market finished the half year unchanged for the start.

The figures confirm the difficulties faced by the City's merchant banking industry during the recession. Yesterday SG Warburg reported a sharp fall in profits due to losses from leasing in Germany and trading in fixed-interest securities.

HSBC seeks £435m via issue to repay Midland bid debts

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is repaying the debts run up during its bid for Midland Bank in May by raising up to £435 million in a placing of up to 80 million shares.

HSBC Holdings, the parent, is offering institutions between 60 and 80 million shares at 548p each. HSBC shares have risen sharply in London in the past two months due to the devaluation of sterling. Dealers reported the issue was heavily oversubscribed. Details are expected to be announced today.

HSBC said it needed the funds to repay debts incurred during the Midland bid and to strengthen its capital to cope with continuing demand for loans from its Far Eastern customers. The group is said to have borrowed heavily from Hang Seng Bank, its 61 per cent-owned subsidiary in Hong Kong, to finance purchases of Midland shares during the contested bid.

The bank also wants capital to finance asset growth in the Asia-Pacific region where its assets are forecast to rise by up to a fifth this year. The

successful placing demonstrates the strength of the HSBC Group compared with its British competitors.

The new shares will account for up to 3.3 per cent of HSBC's share capital. Up to 35.2 million of the shares will be sterling-denominated and should create a more liquid market in the stock in the City. Before the issue HSBC had 1.6 billion Hong Kong dollar-denominated shares but only 800 million shares marked in sterling.

The issue, made simultaneously in Hong Kong and London, was managed by HSBC's own broking operations, James Capel in London and Wardley James Capel in Hong Kong, although Cazenove also worked on the placing in London.

HSBC becomes a British tax-paying company on January 1, and will move its head office to the City. The international placing anticipates the bank's change of tax status and strengthens its solid capital base.

Tempos, page 28

Rothschild firms boost asset values

By OUR CITY STAFF

RIT Capital Partners and St James's Place Capital, Lord Rothschild's two main quoted investment vehicles, announced sharp falls in interim pre-tax profit but higher net asset per share values.

St James's Place Capital, an investment and financial services group, said it was "not dissatisfied" with its 5.4 per cent increase in net assets per share to 100.7p in the six months to end-September. This compares with a 2.9 per cent rise in the FT-all share index and a 0.4 per cent fall in the Investment Trust Net Asset index over the same period. The company said its net asset value was still rising in the second half. The interim dividend is held at 1.5p.

Pre-tax profits slumped from £20.5 million to £4.9 million, largely because of the fall in the profits of RIT Capital Partners, in which it is a big shareholder. It also suffered a £4.8 million loss on dealing investments.

RIT net assets per share rose 3.8 per cent to 146.1p. However, profits fell to £1.8 million (£4.4 million) because of the low yield on its 7 per cent investment in Newmont Mining, which accounts for 31 per cent of total net assets. There is no interim payout.

Provisions raise losses at Regalian

By JONATHAN PRYNN

FURTHER property write-downs have pushed Regalian Properties to a £21.5 million interim pre-tax loss for the six months to end-September.

The deficit compares with a £6.4 million taxable profit for the same period last year and a £26.8 million loss for last year as a whole. The £24.5 million provision comes just five months after a £33 million write-down at the year end.

The latest provision includes a £18.3 million write-down against stocks and work in progress, a £5.3 million loss on sales of properties and a £369,000 payment to a former director in compensation for loss of office.

David Goldstone, chairman and chief executive, said prospects for the property market remained bleak, and recent interest rate cuts seem to have had no impact. He called on government to "show a strong lead, recognising the importance of the housing market to the national economy."

The net interest bill for the six-month period was £4.7 million compared with £1.8 million of interest income for the same period last year. Rental income fell from £2.8 million to £1.9 million.

Tempos, page 28

Tibbett drives off with biggest buy

By JONATHAN PRYNN

Tibbett & Britten, the fast-growing distribution group, has completed its largest acquisition to date in a deal that will make it Europe's fifth-largest independent deliverer of new cars.

The company is paying up to £52.5 million to acquire Silcock Express Holdings, a private vehicle distributor that has operations in the UK, France, Belgium, Spain and Portugal.

Last year Silcock transported about one million vehicles. It operates about 550 vehicle transport vehicles and 31 rail wagons and has a 20 per cent share of the UK new car transport market. It also provides pre-delivery services such as fitting radios and applying "go faster" stripes.

The deal, which allows for substantial performance related payments to the vendors, is being financed by a one-for-five rights issue to raise £30.8 million. The shares are being offered at 465p, against yesterday's market price of 547p, down 1p. The initial consideration is £31.2 million, but up to a further £21.4 million could be paid by 1995 if profit targets are met.

Silcock is 87 per cent owned

by Bernard Holmes, its chairman, who led a management buyout from Sears in 1984. Mr Holmes will step down as chairman but will remain a director. Pre-tax profits fell last year to £5.85 million as the effect of the new car sales slump in Europe was felt. Profits before tax for the current year are warranted at not less than £7.1 million.

John Harvey, the chairman and chief executive of Tibbett & Britten, said the acquisition would add a fifth leg to its distribution operations, which specialises in lower value items such as clothes, toiletries and groceries. Although the company was moving into a new area of distribution, Silcock's business philosophy reflected that of the existing operations. This included establishing long-term contracts with customers and adopting a value added approach to its services.

He said that the European new car market had attractive growth prospects in the medium to long term. The initial consideration represented an exit multiple of only seven times earnings. The deal would provide a "significant" earnings enhancement next year.



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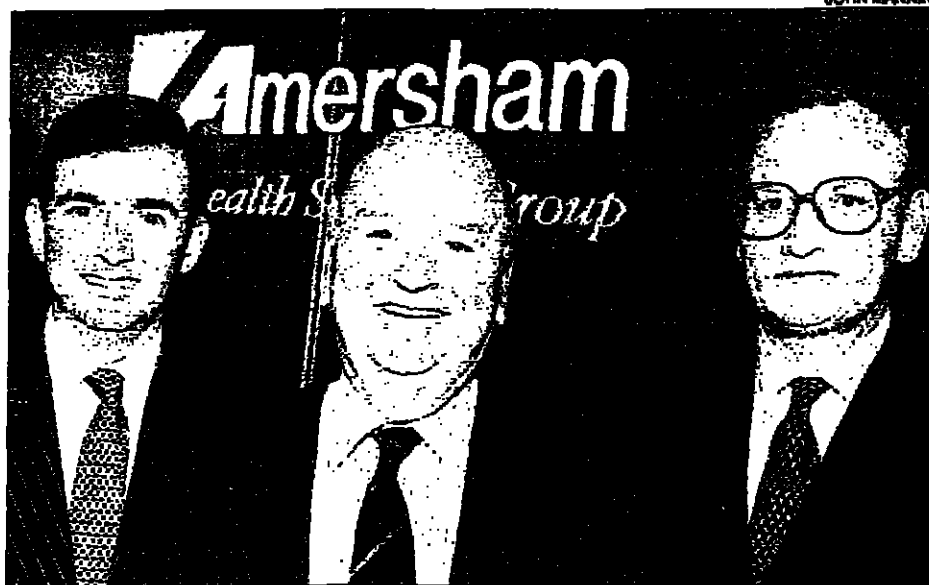
Hongkong Bank sells into strength

READERS who followed our advice last June and accepted shares in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in exchange for Midland paper should thank their lucky stars. The devaluation of sterling and the boom in Asian economies have catapulted the shares of HSBC, the holding company of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, up 67 per cent to 565p in the past five months. Institutional investors have overcome their initial reticence and are scrambling for any shares they can find.

This has prompted William Purves, the chairman of HSBC, to launch an entirely opportunistic placing of up to 80 million shares, to raise as much as £435 million. Predictably the placing was reported as heavily oversubscribed and the result will be announced today.

HSBC's rationale for the placing is fairly limp. The bank claims it needs the funds to repay intra-group debt incurred during the Midland bid. HSBC borrowed heavily from Hang Seng, one of its Hong Kong subsidiaries, to buy Midland shares.

The bank also claims to need the capital to fund a lending explosion in Hong Kong.



Healthy progress: Kirk Stephenson, left, Sir Edwin Nixon and Bill Castelli, of Amersham

HSBC's assets in Southern Asia are estimated to have grown by a fifth this year. But HSBC is still one of the best capitalised banks in the world and does not really need the money on either count.

HSBC should make a £1.7 billion profit this year, putting it on a p/e ratio of more than 12. The rapid climb in the shares should keep the bank in

favour with the City well into next year. But if HSBC is selling its own shares, it must reckon this is the top of the market. Investors should consider following suit.

Amersham

MICHAEL FOOT, former leader of the Labour Party, may care to note that compared

with the FT-Actuaries all-share index, Amersham has underperformed since 1988, when the protective golden share was handed back. Amersham, as investors with long memories will remember, was the health science group privatised in 1982 amid a political uproar over underpricing. Much has changed since. The nuclear isotopes once supplied by Harwell now come from Mayak in the former Soviet Union, and Amerlite, the diagnostic tests business, has been sold to Eastman Kodak of America. Amersham has, however, hung on to the Amerlite royalties. It chipped in £1.7 million in the first half, which should increase in future.

This helped Amersham lift pre-tax profits by 24 per cent to £10.2 million in the six months to end-September. The interim dividend rises 0.3p to 4.0p a share, from earnings up 25 per cent to 11.4p.

Bill Castelli, chief executive, Sir Edwin Nixon, chairman, and Kirk Stephenson, finance director, expect steady progress in the second half. The City has translated this into full-year forecasts of £24 million, giving earnings of 26.7p and a dividend of 13.8p. At yesterday's share price of 558p, up 32p, Amersham

stands on a prospective yield of 3.3 per cent and a multiple of 21.

All this reflects the City view that the management's new strategy of concentrating on branded medical products is working. In addition to the good management work, the falling pound is expected to add £5 million to next year's profits. The 5,000 remaining shareholders should hold on.

Regalian

THERE is an air of weary acceptance in the half-year statement from Regalian Properties that makes depressing reading for economic optimists. The company seems determined to accentuate the negative. No upturn in the market can be foreseen, no prospects of returning consumer confidence are on the horizon and no improvement in trading is expected in the second half.

A further stock writedown leaves the bottom line £21.5 million in the red, despite a £3 million trading profit. Price

cuts have at least kept residential sales ticking over, allowing Regalian to halve borrowings from £130 million at the year-end to £66 million at the interim stage. But its biggest

residential development, the luxury flats project at Kensington Palace Gardens, remains obstinately unsaleable. Regalian is trying a new selling tactic, issuing an offer-for-sale document in an attempt to sell the development in its entirety rather than singly. There have been encouraging responses, but as the company points out, there have also been many false dawns.

The shares meanwhile remain anchored at 8p against net assets of 88.5p. While the debt reduction programme continues, the company is safe and the shares will retain some residual value. However, sales must be maintained to cover the interest charge as rental income is minimal. This may well necessitate further price cuts and provisions before this recession has blown itself out. The shares remain speculative.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		
King Shaxson	87p (+21p)	
ADT	473p (+20p)	
Amersham	558p (+29p)	
Serna Group	328p (+11p)	
Plogas	215p (+15p)	
FALLS:		
Wolsey	450p (-11p)	
A Cohen	275p (-30p)	
J Sainsbury	479p (-13p)	
Transfer Tech	285p (-31p)	

SKF B	700p (-12p)	
Glaxo	808p (-13p)	
Lloyds	484p (-11p)	
Net West	388p (-12p)	
Bass	545p (-10p)	
Grand Met	402p (-11p)	
THORNI	798p (-10p)	
Sotobay	713p (-12p)	
AB Food	421p (-14p)	

Closing Prices Page 35

Autumn Statement jitters depress shares and gilts

THE equity and gilt markets suffered a last-minute bout of nerves, worried that the Chancellor would fail to deliver the goods in his Autumn Statement today.

As the pound dropped below DM 2.42, City investors became anxious that the Bank of England would have scope for a cut in base rates of only half a point, compared with earlier expectations of at least 1½ points.

The FT-SE 100 index, having been 6.1 points up earlier in the session, lost ground rapidly in late trading. The index finished near its low for the day, 17.8 down at 2,696.8. Turnover remained scrappy, trade between market-makers accounting for the bulk of the 555 million shares that changed hands.

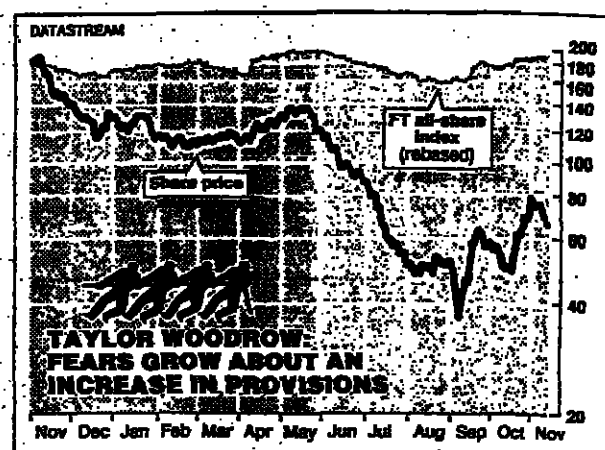
Government securities also suffered last-minute jitters, wiping out earlier gains of ½p at the longer end.

Among leaders, Lucas Industries firmed 3p to 120p as it continued to meet brokers and their clients. Taylor Woodrow fell 9p to 66p after Hoare Govett increased its forecast of losses for the current year from £15 million to £37 million. It says the company is ready to increase provisions for building and property write-offs and may cut the dividend. Worries about a possible dividend cut left Simon Engineering 5p lower at 74p.

HSBC, which owns Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, rose 4p to 565p as it began a £435 million fund-raising exercise. Canavon placed between 60 million and 80 million shares at 548p. The proceeds will be used to reduce debt incurred during the takeover of Midland Bank.

Cable and Wireless rose 15p to 664p as the market responded enthusiastically to the proposed link-up with BCE, the Canadian telecommunications group. BCE is paying £480 million for 20 per cent of Cable and Wireless's Mercury subsidiary. In return, C&W is investing £30 million in BCE's cable and television interests in Britain. Vodafone fell 6p to 381p on fears of increased competition from C&W in the mobile telephone market.

Hambros, the merchant bank, fell 17p to 227p after reporting a 33 per cent drop in half-year pre-tax profits to £25 million. The group blamed the recession, which had resulted in higher provisions for bad debts. SG Warburg, which unveiled a sharp drop in half-year figures on Tues-



Taylor Woodrow: Shares grow about an increase in provisions

day, fell a further 6p to 473p. King & Shaxson, the discount house, responded to interim figures that were better than expected with a leap of 21p to 87p. This spilled over into the rest of the sector. Cater Allen added 21p to 369p, Gerrard & National 10p to 339p and Union Discount 7p to 61p.

Rolls-Royce eased another 1p to 114p. Warburg Securities is said to have reduced its forecast for the current year by £5 million, to £75 million, and for next year by £30 million, to £90 million.

Water companies were again chased higher. Analysts met Ofwat, the industry watchdog, which published its industry review on Tuesday. There were gains for Anglian, 16p to 495p; Northumbrian,

20p to 563p; North West, 9p to 506p; Severn Trent, 5p to 470p; Southern, 14p to 476p; South West, 8p to 518p; Thames, 10p to 513p; and Yorkshire, 10p to 541p.

Southern Electricity fell 12p to 416p on reports that the group planned to delay interim figures until after publication of the industry regulator's next report. Prices were mixed in early trading but second-line shares continued firm, traders said. Towards the end of the morning, the Dow Jones Industrial average was 4,322 points up at 2,229.79.

□ Tokyo — The Nikkei index fell 118.96 points to 16,318.15.

MICHAEL CLARK

BIBBY

"SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES"

- Profit before tax was £32.2 million (1991: £35.3 million).
- Earnings per share were 20.09p (1991: 20.61p), helped by a much lower tax charge.
- Maintained final dividend of 6.9p per ordinary share.
- Formation of Capital Equipment Division as a result of the acquisition by the Group of Finanzauto in Spain and STET in Portugal.
- Debt/equity ratio 65.6%, following the one for four rights issue in September.
- "The Group continues to make progress towards securing its longer term objectives and is well positioned to benefit from any upturn in economic activity".

Richard Mansell-Jones, Chairman.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 26 SEPTEMBER 1992

	1992	1991
Profit before tax	£32.2m	£35.3m
Earnings per ordinary share	20.09p	20.61p
Final dividend per ordinary share	6.9p	6.9p

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Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Company Secretary at the above address.

Associated British Foods

"I am pleased to announce profits before taxation of £297 million for the Associated British Foods Group. Although this figure represents a decrease on the comparable figures this time last year, given the difficult market conditions in the year under review, it is an achievement that again reflects the trading strengths and solid asset base of our group."

"A second interim dividend of 5.5p per share will be paid in March 1993, making a total for the year of 14.0p, an increase of 8 per cent on the equivalent dividends a year ago."

Garry Weston
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	Year to 12 Sept. 1992 £ millions	Year to 14 Sept. 1991 £ millions
Turnover	3,954	3,510
Trading Surplus	271	243
Profit before tax	297	332
Profit attributable to the company	196	220
Ordinary Shareholders' Funds	1,707	1,636
Earnings per share	43.7p	49.0p
Dividends per share	14.0p	13.0p

The above are extracts from the Annual Report and Accounts, 1992 sent to shareholders on 11th November 1992.

Associated British Foods plc
Weston Centre, 68 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LR

SHORTS (under 5 years)

100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
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100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%

LONGS (over 15 years)

100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
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100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%

UNDATED

100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
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100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%

INDEX-LINKED

100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
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100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%

RECENT ISSUES

Beta Global Brng Mkts C 97
Chubb Security	195	-2
Dorling Kindersley (165)	224	...
Forgn & Cot PEP Inv Trst	102	...
Jos Holdings Capital	31	...
Jos Holdings Income	91	...
Jos Zero Div P	107	...
Linux Printing Techs (130)	148	...
Purmanig (2)	6	...
Tennel Diagnostics (120)	170	-2
Trinity (120)	140	...
Vardon (45)	47	-1
Wetherspoon (U.D.) (160)	172	-2
Wetherspoon N/P (130)	49	...

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COMMENT

The right kind of falling leaves

Share dealers have followed the unusual course, in the past two dramatic rises in share prices this year, of selling the rumour than buying the fact. Both John Major's election victory and the devaluation that dare not speak its name came as surprises to most domestic traders. More recently, the government's pointers to a switch in its priorities towards growth have set up a further rise in share prices, taking the FT-SE 100 index near its brief post-election peak. So much expectation has been placed on the Chancellor's Autumn Statement today that he will find it difficult to fulfil the hopes. The market was already preparing yesterday to revert to its usual practice of selling the fact.

This adds to Norman Lamont's burden. The main purpose of his mini-Budget is to cheer people up, so that businessmen and families will plan for 1993 on the basis that the economy will recover and the threat of unemployment recede, rather than battering down the hatches more securely on the grounds that 1992 was worse than expected. The concrete stimulative effects of devaluation and recent interest rate cuts are much bigger than anything likely to come from the statement, which will therefore be judged on how many pieces of good news it contains to counter any political damage from public spending adjustments.

On balance, the markets expect a one-point cut in base rates, though some pessimists started yesterday to talk of a smaller cut. Anything more would boost market confidence, as well as boosting share prices on the more double-edged thought that sterling might fall further. The more individual measures the Chancellor takes to help the building, construction and car industries the better, though housebuilders must wait for consumers to start believing that house prices will fall no further.

More generally, markets will look to see how much emphasis the Chancellor puts on inflation. After devaluation, the Treasury immediately seized on price stability as the new anchor for policy and has not shown much sign of a true conversion to growth. This reflects its own economic models, which project that devaluation will boost inflation strongly. As an analysis put forward by Greenwell Montagu's economists suggested yesterday, this is unlikely to be the case because, unusually, the economy and inflation expectations were depressed before devaluation. If the Chancellor demonstrates that he agrees with this analysis, he may win the confidence of the equity markets, the first shot in the battle to boost the public's confidence in recovery.

Cable connection

As telecommunications tries to become a world industry, so it is taking on the habit of other international industries such as oil, airlines, aircraft and car manufacturing of operating through a series of partnerships. Cable and Wireless is used to owning less than 100 per cent of subsidiaries, mainly for political reasons but like its competitors. It also needs to build a network of partnerships in different continents to spread the financial load of its heavy ambitions. The link with BCE, the Canadian telecommunications leader, may not be the most significant of these but brings the more earthy domestic trading advantage of opening up London cable networks, so that Mercury can compete with BT on a much wider basis than before and accelerate its growth rate again.

C&W is also adopting another habit of the oil and mining industries, treating sales and purchase of participations as a regular way of adjusting its balance sheet and cash flows. That is better for shareholders than rights issues, and in this case crystallises a realistic £2.4 billion value for Mercury.

The Chancellor should regard the commercial property market as one of his key monetary barometers, maintains Douglas McWilliams

We all know that a weak economy has an impact on the property market. The 18 per cent of vacant offices in London and the 25 per cent drop in house prices pay eloquent testimony to that fact. There is less understanding about how property values influence the economy. It is widely accepted that when house prices fall, consumers spend less. Research carried out by the Centre for Economics and Business Research, sponsored by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, shows that commercial property prices also have a strong influence on the economy through their effects on corporate borrowing.

This research suggests that the Chancellor needs a thorough understanding of the commercial property market when assessing the state of the economy. He has recently announced that he will be looking at a range of indicators to interpret monetary conditions. These should include a measure of commercial property prices as one of the more important of these indicators.

The key relationship is between companies' balance sheets and their ability or propensity to borrow. Just as much personal borrowing is mortgaged against house values, corporate borrowing is influenced by the strength of property assets in balance sheets. Though in theory corporate borrowing is based on an assessment of future business prospects, our research suggests that in practice it is also closely related to the availability of security in the form of existing wealth. Hence the strong correlation, shown in the main chart, between movements in property prices (which affect the main component of corporate wealth) and in company borrowing.

The value of the property asset base for Britain's industrial and commercial companies has declined from £414 billion at the end of 1969 to £314 billion at the end of 1991. This has been associated with a collapse in companies' new borrowing, which had been running at an average quarterly rate of £13.3 billion from Q3 1987 to Q1 1990, to an average of £6.4 billion in the past year. After taking account of repayments of debt, companies' net borrowing from banks and other financial institutions has remained more or less stable for more than two years.

For companies to rein back their rate of new borrowing in this way is far from painless. They have had to shut plants, declare redundancies, reduce stocks and cut investments. Total non-government investment in the UK this year is likely to be down by 22 per cent in real terms from its level in 1989. This has reduced total domestic demand in the UK by as

much as 2.5 per cent and hence played a key role in the recession. Surveys indicate that business investment will fall further.

The reduction in investment has not just exacerbated the recession, it has also reduced the nation's capacity to support economic growth in the future. If some allowance is made for the fact that modern capital equipment, such as computers and electronically controlled machinery, is falling rapidly in price (and much more so than is allowed for in government statistics), a crude calculation suggests that the recession has already reduced the UK's manufacturing capacity by almost a fifth since 1989, compared with what might have occurred with steady growth. With steady growth, manufacturing capacity might have grown by 12 to 15 per cent over the past three years. Instead, it appears that a fall of almost 5 per cent has actually taken place. On current forecasts to 1994, the capacity shortfall by then may be approaching a third.

Our research shows that property prices have an influence on corporate borrowing over and above those of profits, gross domestic product growth and interest rates. The estimated relationship shows that a 10

per cent further fall in property prices would cut company borrowing in the UK by £9.7 billion (7.1 per cent of GDP) over the following eight quarters even if profits, interest rates and GDP were unaffected. The small chart shows the time profile of this. In practice, with such a reduction in

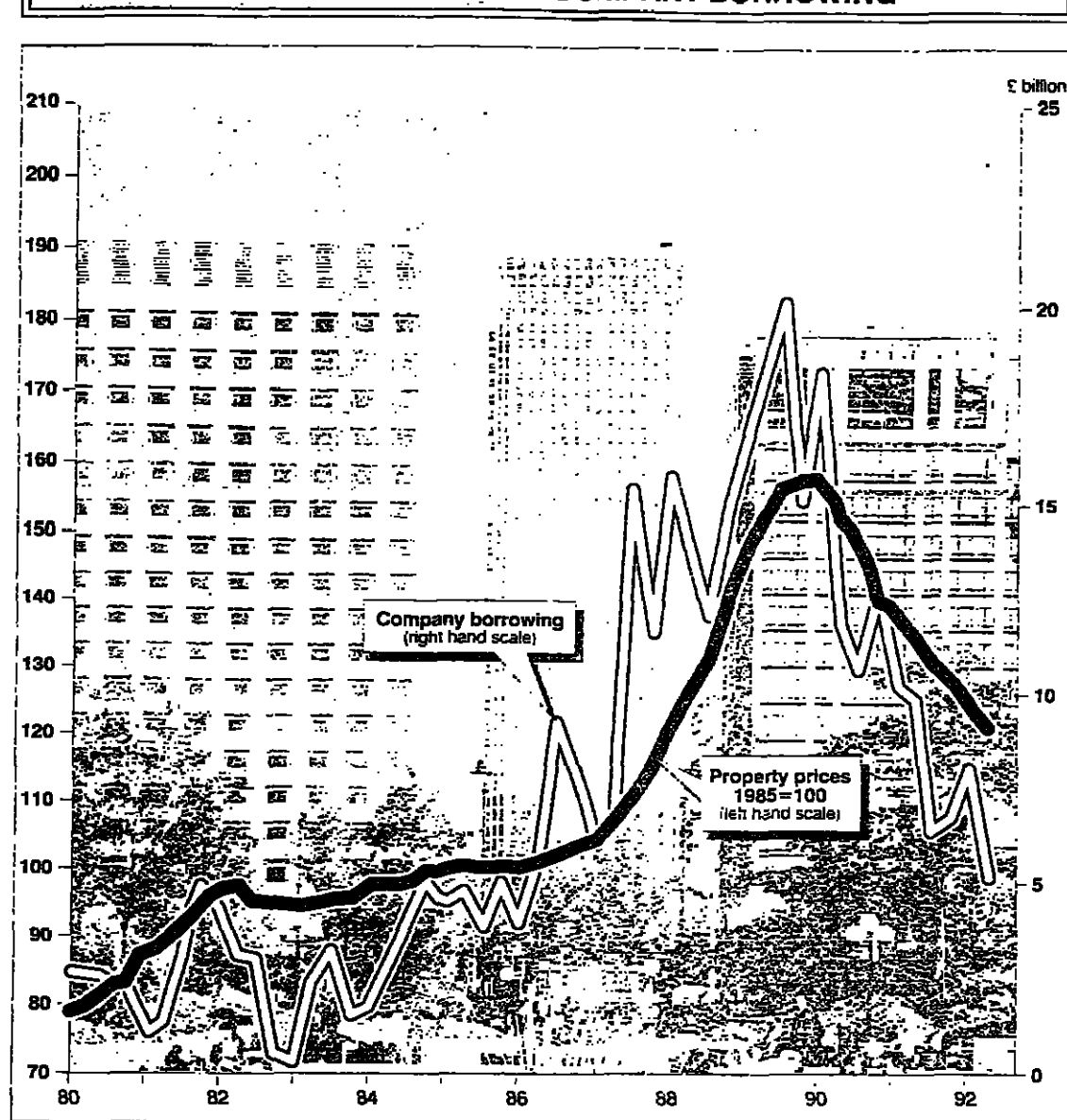
corporate debt, the economy itself would be affected, leading to further effects on borrowing.

The old joke about economists is that they prove that what works in practice does not work in theory. Fortunately, the relationship between property and the economy does not suffer from this defect — indeed, it is one of the relatively few areas of economics where there is some agreement between Lord Keynes and Professor Milton Friedman.

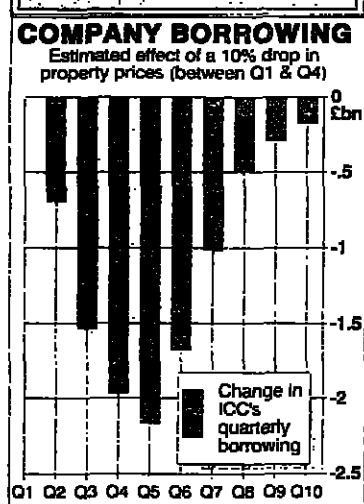
One of Keynes's main contributions to economic understanding was his argument that falling prices of assets such as property might lead to a real rate of interest (the rate of interest after allowing for inflation) too high to encourage an economic recovery even if the nominal rate of interest were close to zero. He said the lowest practical rate of interest was near to 2 per cent. So if prices were falling by 10 per cent annually this would imply a real rate of interest of 12 per cent, which would be far too high to stimulate a recovery in a slump. This concept became known as the "liquidity trap".

Milton Friedman's approach was to start with the proposition that long term there is a stable relationship between individuals' and companies'

PROPERTY PRICES AND COMPANY BORROWING



EFFECT OF 10% FALL IN PRICES



holdings of assets such as property and their holdings of money in cash or bank deposits. In Friedman's monetarist theory, if the direction of causation ran from the money supply to the value of assets, a reduction in the money supply would lead to a reduction in the value of assets. But his underlying assumptions would be consistent with the theory working in reverse, so that a reduction in property prices would reduce the demand for money and hence have secondary effects on the economy.

This research has implications for economic prospects and management. The recent decline in property prices is still feeding through. It will be a drag on the economy for some time. Our calculations suggest that company borrowing will fall further over the next year, running at only two thirds its rate over the past year. The forecasts also imply that it will not recover to present levels in real terms before 1995 and that in the medium term no borrowing boom is in prospect.

This has both a direct effect and a monetary effect. The direct effect is that lower company borrowing will reduce corporate expenditure, economic growth will be held back and a recovery in industrial capacity will be more difficult to achieve. In the longer term, the monetary effect is also important. Company borrowing is an important component of the demand for money and so affects the broader definitions of the money supply. The depressed level of borrowing in prospect implies a period of slow monetary growth. This will exacerbate the weakness of demand and feed back into asset prices.

The likely low level of borrowing means that companies will have to raise their profit margins to fund the investments that they will need to make to be internationally competitive. Fortunately, there are signs that profit margins may be about to bounce back from their low levels, partly as a side-effect of the recent falls in the sterling exchange rate. The predictions of low levels of company borrowing are also bad news for the health of the financial sector. The likely dearth of corporate loans will exacerbate the competition between lenders trying to find financially sound borrowers.

Finally, the relationship between the property market and the economy — a weak economy depressing property prices, which in turn depresses the economy further — means property prices have to be seen as a critical element in economic management. The Chancellor is paying attention to asset prices, particularly house prices, as indicators of monetary conditions. He would be wise to incorporate a thorough understanding of the commercial property market in his overall economic assessment and to use one of the commercial property values indices as a key monetary indicator.

Douglas McWilliams is the chief executive of the Centre of Economics and Business Research. A full text of his report, Commercial Property and Company Borrowing, is available from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, priced £15.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Time for Amstrad's small shareholders to speak out

From Mr Gideon Fiegel

Sir, As one of the small shareholders in Amstrad who have maintained faith in Mr Sugar's ability to turn round the company, I am not only severely disappointed at his failure but also aggrieved at his attempt to borrow our own money from the company and dispossess us of its assets and goodwill whilst paying us a pittance for our support and loyalty of many years.

Contrary to the opinion voiced by various commentators in other newspapers, who suggest that this is a financial masterstroke by Mr Sugar, that without his talents the company is worth little or nothing and investors have no

choice but to sell, I heartily welcome your comment that it is time for change at Amstrad and for new leadership to guide the company.

While there is nothing wrong with an entrepreneurial approach, the time for Mr Sugar's paternalistic approach to management has long passed and had Mr Sugar understood the need for an international company to be managed by highly qualified professional managers and guided by a well-qualified professional board for the benefit of the shareholders, the company might have been in much better shape to withstand the recession and the particular difficulties in the

electronics industry. There are many competent and well-qualified managers available both locally and internationally, who, given the opportunity, would gladly grasp the challenge to turn Amstrad to profit. I shall certainly cast my votes for change and against resolutions 4(A) Ordinary Resolution, 4(B) Special Resolution 4(C) Special Resolution.

Any of your readers who still hold Amstrad shares who share my views are most welcome to contact me on (081) 904 7868.

Yours faithfully,
GIDEON G. FIEGEL,
55 Blockley Road,
Wembley
Middlesex.

Difference in rate

From Mr David Metcalfe

Sir, Over the past few months you have highlighted the cavalier attitude of the financial institutions to their clients. Your recent articles pointing at the delay by the building societies in reducing their rates to existing clients is being followed by the Finance House Association (FHA). With the 2 per cent reduction in base rate during October, one would have expected a similar reduction in the FHA base rate on November 1st. However in their wisdom we only see a 1 per cent reduction.

The government were expecting that reduced base rate would show a saving to the small businessmen. Obviously the FHA are more concerned with their own margins than assisting the economy in general and small businesses in particular.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID METCALFE,
Adelmuir,
Oakwood Road,
Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

Heseltine on his speech to the CBI

From the President of the Board of Trade

Sir, The report by your Industrial Editor yesterday suggested that my speech to the CBI Conference at Harrogate earlier this week had been drafted on the way there. If this were true then it would have implied a discourtesy to such an important audience. Happily, I can say that it most certainly was not true.

The text of my speech was finished in London the day before the Conference. I deviated from it only to reflect

some manuscript amendments I made in response to the points that were raised earlier in the debate. Immediately after I had spoken, I allowed the text as originally drafted to be released. I believe that the Conference organisers did so forthwith.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HESELTINE,
President of the Board of Trade,
Department of Trade and Industry,
Ashdown House,
123 Victoria Street, SW1.

Sunday shopping stigma to Sainsbury profit

Sir, Sainsbury's trading profits are not as impressive as you suggest (November 5) when this result has been achieved through the company breaking the law by allowing their branches to open on Sunday at the expense of the vast majority of law-abiding retailers.

The best thing the new chairman, David Sainsbury, can do to restore the company's image is to keep his shops shut on Sundays.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM L. BARBER,
Managing Director,
Barbours of Fulham,
427-429 North End Road,
Fulham,
London SW6.

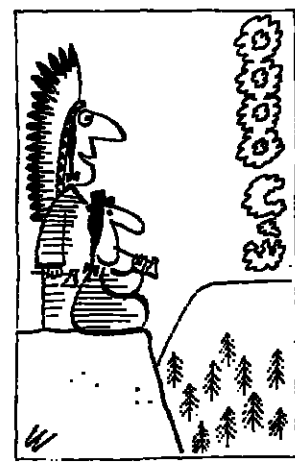
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

No tax return

LORD Laing of Dunphail, life president of United Biscuits after his retirement two years ago, was not at the CBI conference this week but his thoughts have nevertheless been with British industry. In London yesterday to receive the annual Far Sighted Award from the Invest in Britain campaign, Laing confided to the City Diary that he has written a memorandum to the government outlining a scheme to encourage industry to make long-term investments. "When Nigel Lawson reduced corporation tax, companies started paying too much in dividends that were not warranted," he explains. "I've said that the government should raise corporation tax and restore investment allowances." Specifically, Laing thinks investment of up to 2 per cent of turnover is normal and should not get special allowances. But investment of 2.5 per cent of turnover should be 75 per cent tax-free, he says, while investment of more than 5 per cent should qualify for 100 per cent tax-free allowances. So far, he admits, he has had no response but he remains hopeful that his mischievous will not have been a total waste of time. "When you throw bread on the water, you don't always get back a soggy piece of bread," he muses sagely.

Active winner

AFTER choosing outspoken barrister Helena Kennedy, QC, as its woman of the year



"Something about a link up with Cable & Wireless."

in law last year, Network, the Scottish promoter of women in senior positions, has alighted on Anne McMeekan, the managing director of Framlington Unit Management, as its woman of the year in financial services. McMeekan, 38, the only female head of a unit trust, was put forward by Philip Warland, director general of the Unit Trust Association, as the woman who has made the most significant contribution to the development of the industry. McMeekan came to Framlington via Hambro Life and Arbuthnot and, while clearly a formidable lady, hates the "superwoman" label foisted on successful females. "I am not married, nor do I make jam or bake bread or look after other people's children," she says. Instead she plays an active role in the UTA, speaks tirelessly about investment all over Britain and is praised for her charm.

My kind of pizza

BOB Payton, the now not-so-larger-than-life founder of My Kinda Town, the restaurant and hotel group, was in Belfast yesterday for the opening of his first restaurant in the province, a Chicago Pizza Pie Factory. The opening coincides with the 15th anniversary of Payton's first restaurant venture, also a Chicago Pizza Pie Factory, in Crown Passage, St James's. To celebrate, Payton, 48, an ad man turned restaurateur, was adamant that he would be ordering his favourite sausage, pepperoni and extra cheese pizza, at the opening party, despite being on a strict high protein, carbohydrate-free diet under the supervision of a Harley Street doctor. The diet, begun a year ago, has already trimmed three stone from Payton's 6ft 3ins frame. "I'm now just under 17 stone," says the shrinking man triumphantly. The reason for Payton's otherwise rigid adherence to his new dietary regime is, he reveals, a high school reunion in Miami Beach on Saturday. "We were the class of '62 and growing up in Miami beach in the 50's and 60's was real American Pie," he says. "I wanted to look svelte and fashionable and I'm going to buy myself some new clothes before I get there."

Quote of the week: "I am sick and tired of people saying Arthur Scargill got it right." Arthur Scargill, in evidence to the Trade and Industry select committee enquiry into coal closures.

CAROL LEONARD

SURREY BUILDING SOCIETY

The following revised rates of interest will apply from 12th November 1992

	GROSS RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	NET RATE
SUPER PLUS ACCESS				
£75,000 OR MORE	9.10	8.90	6.78	6.67
£20,000 OR MORE	8.16	8.00	6.09	6.00
£10,000 OR MORE	7.12	7.00	5.32	5.25
£500 OR MORE	6.09	6.00	4.55	4.50
PLUS 3% BONUS ON 1ST YEAR'S SAVINGS				
TESSA				
	8.25			
MONTHLY INCOME				
£25,000 OR MORE	7.44	7.20	5.54	5.40
£5,000 OR MORE	6.06	5.90	4.51	4.42
INSTANT ACCESS				
£15,000 OR MORE	7.02	6.90	5.24	5.17
£5,000 OR MORE	6.09	6.00	4.55	4.50
£500 OR MORE	5.06	5.00	3.79	3.75
£1 OR MORE	1.51	1.50	1.12	1.12
SPECIAL PLUS ACCESS				
£500 OR MORE	5.58	5.50	4.16	4.12
SUPER PLUS OVERSEAS & CHARITIES				
£500 OR MORE	6.81	6.70		

	GROSS RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	NET RATE
THESE SHARES ARE CLOSED ISSUES				
Account Profile Description				
B SURREY GROSS (Minimum balance £500 — £20,000 maximum)	5.78	5.70	4.32	4.27
P PAID UP SHARES	1.51	1.50	1.12	1.12
S 7 DAY NOTICE SHARES (Minimum balance £500)	4.40	4.35	3.29	3.26
V SUBSCRIPTION SHARES	—	3.50	—	2.62
Y SURREY GOLD (Minimum balance £20,000)	6.30	6.20	4.70	4.65

*Provided lower minimum investments.
Gross Annual Rate when interest compounded half yearly or monthly the monthly income interest will normally be paid at the end of the month, after deduction of income tax at the basic rate, currently 20%. Tax may be repaid from the Income Tax return when the annual tax credit exceeds the liability to tax. Interest may be paid at the gross rate, without deduction of tax, to individuals who are eligible and register that they do not expect to be liable to income tax and the relevant other taxes.
All rates quoted are variable. Withdrawals are subject to Branch and Agency limits.
Total assets under £750,000. The Society has branches in the following areas:
Principal Registered Office:
Surrey House, 101-102 Mansfield Road, Reading, RG1 4HE.
Telephone: 01865 771525. Fax: 01865 828222.

مكتبة الأصيل

AIB rises to £100m as bad debts fall

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE growth in the Irish economy and a fall in bad debts helped AIB Group, the Irish bank, to lift profits 9 per cent to £195.6 million (£100 million) in the half year to end-September. The dividend is raised 6 per cent to £3.8p.

Bad debts fell £10.3 million to £90.2 million, mainly due to an improvement in the British loan book. Bad debts in Britain fell from £33 million to £24 million.

Hugh Feeley, general manager of AIB Britain, said the bank is running more than 400 businesses and properties that have gone into receivership due to the recession. These include 120 public houses and dozens of restaurants, hotels and nursing homes. The bank has a £300 million portfolio of non-performing loans in Britain.

AIB has a policy of hiring outside managers to run the businesses until it can find a buyer. On Monday, the bank sold 28 pubs to Wiltshire Brewery for £5.8 million.

Profits rose despite a £17.2 million exceptional charge, including a £11,000 a head

■ AIB, the Irish bank, is running more than 400 businesses and properties that have gone into receivership. But falling bad debts have helped the bank to raise profits

payment to staff who agreed to longer bank opening hours after industrial action earlier this year. The compensation cost £8.5 million. AIB now opens 50 branches in the lunch hour as a trial.

The charge also included £15 million for the reorganisation of the British division which continues to make heavy losses. It lost £18.1 million (£17.2 million loss).

The figures included the first full contributions from AIB's acquisitions, TSB Northern Ireland and York Bank and Trust in Maryland. These chipped in £3.7 million and £1.7 million respectively after funding costs.

The strongest performance came from First Maryland Bancorp, the American subsidiary, where profits recovered 91 per cent to £136

million, although bad debts remained little changed. Mr Dean said the improvement had come from a rise in income.

Profits from AIB's main Irish division fell 4 per cent to £83.9 million due to poor loan growth. The Irish economy is expected to grow more than 2 per cent this year and bad debt provisions are still low, but the poor demand for new loans meant the group's balance sheet shrank almost £400 million to £18.1 billion. In constant currency terms, assets grew 7 per cent since the punt gained strongly against the dollar and sterling in the aftermath of Black Wednesday.

AIB is changing its year-end from March to December, so it will report a nine-month set of figures early next year.



Shake-up: Sir Leon examines holding in Dutch company

EC orders Gillette to shave

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan yesterday ordered a shake-up of the European wet-shave market, ruling that Gillette, of America, must dispose of all its interests in the Dutch holding company that controls Wilkinson Sword, Gillette's main rival.

It is the first time the European Commission has judged that a company can unfairly abuse its market dominance by simply taking a minority stake in a rival.

Sir Leon's decision, which follows three years of Brussels surveillance of Gillette's activities in Europe, was also influenced by a £70 million loan that Gillette gave the Dutch holding company, Eemland, to help it take over Wilkinson Sword. Gillette has said it may contest the issue before the European Court of Justice.

It has also challenged findings by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and equivalent groups in France and Germany, that the Eemland holding was distorting competition. The commission estimates that one in two wet-shavers in Europe uses a Gillette.

Tokyo shares slide while politicians argue over scandals

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

TOKYO may be bathed in unusually warm sunshine but there are only long faces in Kabutocho, Tokyo's equivalent of the square mile.

Nobody is expecting any lasting good news on the Tokyo stock exchange until the end of the year at least, because Japan's politicians seem unable to do anything but squabble over who should take the blame in their latest corruption scandal, leaving no time to debate the implementation of emergency market-reforming measures.

The Nikkei 225 index tumbled almost 500 points on Monday and, after clawing back just 20 points on Tuesday, closed yesterday at 16,318, down another 118. There are fears that politicians may fritter away their 40-day extraordinary Diet session on intra-party bickering, rather than addressing the issue of how to implement the planned ¥11 trillion (£5 billion) emergency economic package, announced in August to calm nervous markets.

"Our politicians have become more of a hindrance than a help. The opposition parties plan to argue *ad nauseum* over who should testify on the corruption scandal, so we can't expect any help from them on the economy for several weeks," said one irate Japanese broker.

Ministry of finance officials gave warning that prolonged delay over the implementation of the package could reduce its influence and slow the long-awaited economic recovery.

"The problem is one of waning confidence. Every day that goes by with another delay of the debate has a very bad effect on the market mood. Such suspensions are only hurting the economy," said Shigeki Morinobu, a director of the international finance bureau, expressing a personal view.

Hideo Sakamaki, Nomura Securities president, told the mass circulation *Mainichi* newspaper: "The market's downward trend began about a year ago... and nobody sees the end of this long, dark tunnel. The effect of the government announcement of an ¥11 trillion pump-priming package would end up being a temporary one if it fails to create tangible results in the near future."

But Kichi Miyazawa, the prime minister struggling against dwindling public support in opinion polls and embarrassed by the stand-off in the Diet, yesterday predicted an economic recovery in the near future.

"Inventory adjustment is progressing and it won't be long before the economy will bottom out," he told *Reuters*. Liberal Democratic Party policymakers.

Foreign analysts too are determined to see some light at the end of the tunnel. "The August stock market low probably marked the bottom and we are now in a cyclical bull market that will see the market rise 50 per cent to 80 per cent from those lows over the next few years," said Andrew Ballingal, strategist at BZW.

Archer warns of poor results at Lloyd's

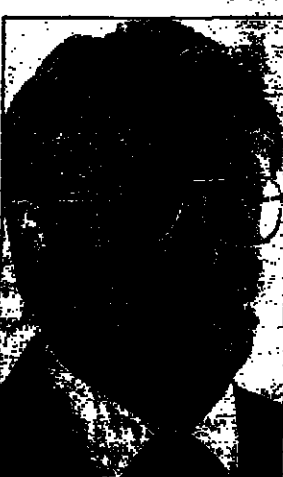
By Jonathan Prynn, Insurance Correspondent

AJ ARCHER Holdings, the quoted Lloyd's managing and members' agency group, has given a grim warning of prospects for the market for the 1990 and 1991 years of account.

In a trading statement released yesterday, the company said the two years "are likely to see poor results for the Lloyd's market as a whole and accordingly the contributions from the Archer syndicates to the company in terms of profit commission will probably be small."

The company added that "claims continue to run at a high level" in 1992, although rates have increased in many classes of business. Lloyd's had hoped that 1992 would prove the turning point for the market, producing a return to healthy profits. Those hopes have been set back by several major losses this year. AJ Archer remains optimistic about the 1993 year of account.

The company confirmed its acquisition of the Kellett managing and members' agency firm for an initial consideration of £1.25 million with further profit-related payments in subsequent years.



Kellett: new Archer chief

Bryan Kellett, the chairman of Kellett, will become chief executive of AJ Archer.

AJ Archer said it estimated its pre-tax profits for the year to end-September to be £900,000 (£3.12 million) against their peak, in 1987, profits were £8.2 million. The company intends to pay a 2.2p final, making an unchanged 4.4p payout for the year. It said that it was "unlikely" to maintain the dividend at that level for 1993. The shares fell 4p to 50p.

HK Land wins container bid

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

HONGKONG Land, which owns 14.9 per cent of Trafalgar House, has emerged as one of the successful bidders for Hong Kong's largest container terminal contract, estimated to cost HK\$10 billion (£855 million).

HK Land and Jardine Pacific, a subsidiary of the Jardine Matheson group, lead a consortium that includes the American-based Sea-Land Orient Terminals, Sun Hong Kai Properties and New World Development, both Hong Kong property companies, Korea's Hanjin group and SinoTrans, China's largest freight mover.

The other two winning groups are the existing terminal operators - Hongkong International Terminals which is part of Li Ka-shing's Hutchison Whampoa group, and Modern Terminals, part-owned by the Wharf group. They together control 18 of the 19 berths at Hong Kong's terminals. Hong Kong is the world's busiest container port, with about 65 per cent of the volume coming from China, against 7 per cent a decade ago.

The only consortium to lose out in the bidding was the Evergreen group of Taiwan and GE Capital Corp, which owns the world's largest fleet of containers. The group lobbied for the contract, saying it had a strong financial background.

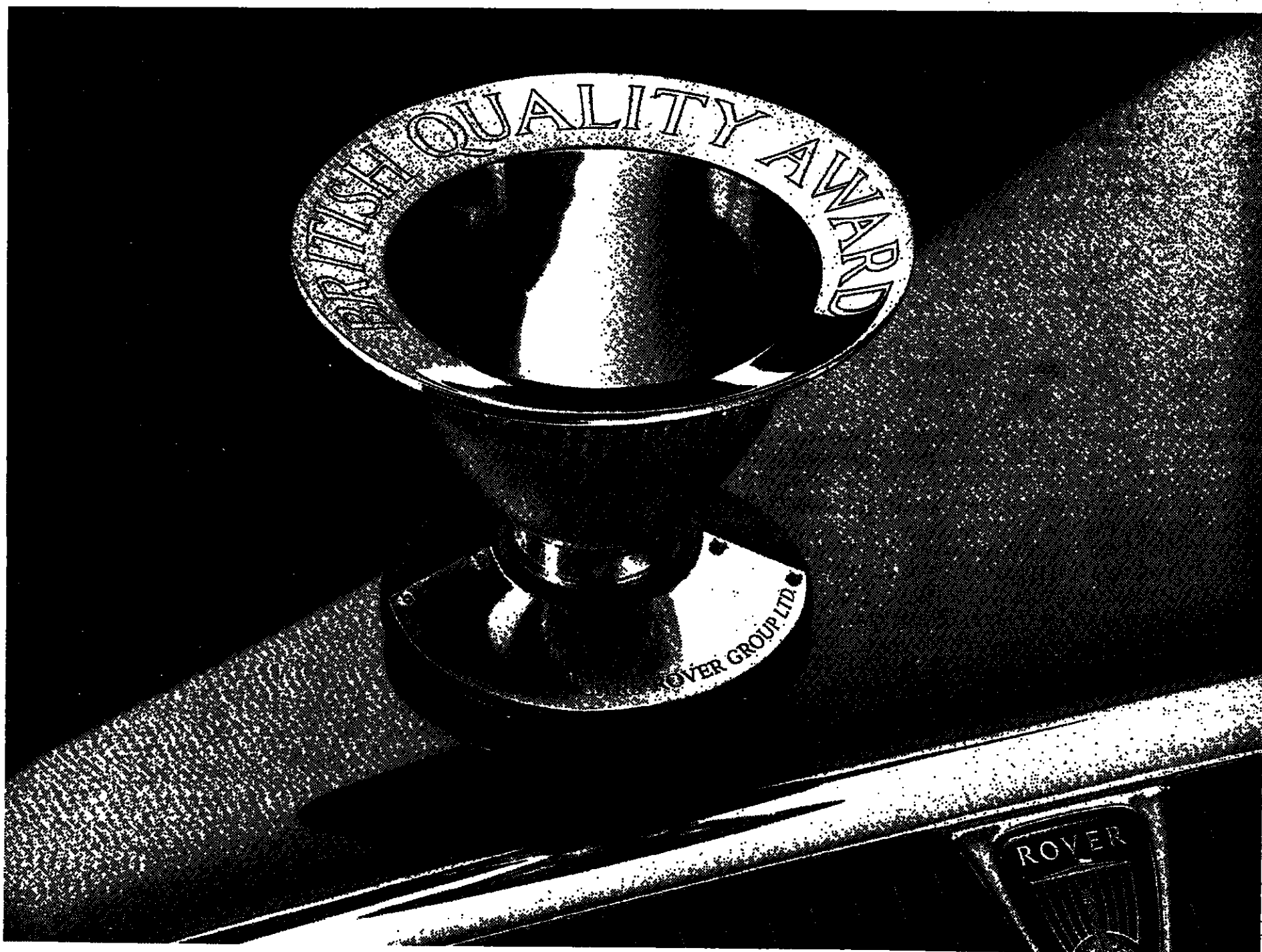
The government said yesterday that the contract for Terminal 9 on Tsing Yi island was awarded to ensure speedy construction and increased competition in the port.

But the winning consortium are unhappy about some of the conditions attached to the contract. They are required to jointly design and develop the four-berth terminal, and then split into two groups in operating the berths. The Jardine consortium will own two berths, with the other two shared by HHI and Modern Terminals.

The Jardine-led consortium said yesterday: "The government proposal is obviously different from that in which we were originally expressing interest and we are now considering the implications."

A government spokesman said the Jardine consortium was selected for its stronger background in local terminal construction and operation. Jardine's joint venture with Trafalgar, Gammon Construction, is one of the territory's most experienced contractors. Sea-Land Orient operates one container berth.

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And reassuring news for those who drive a Rover.

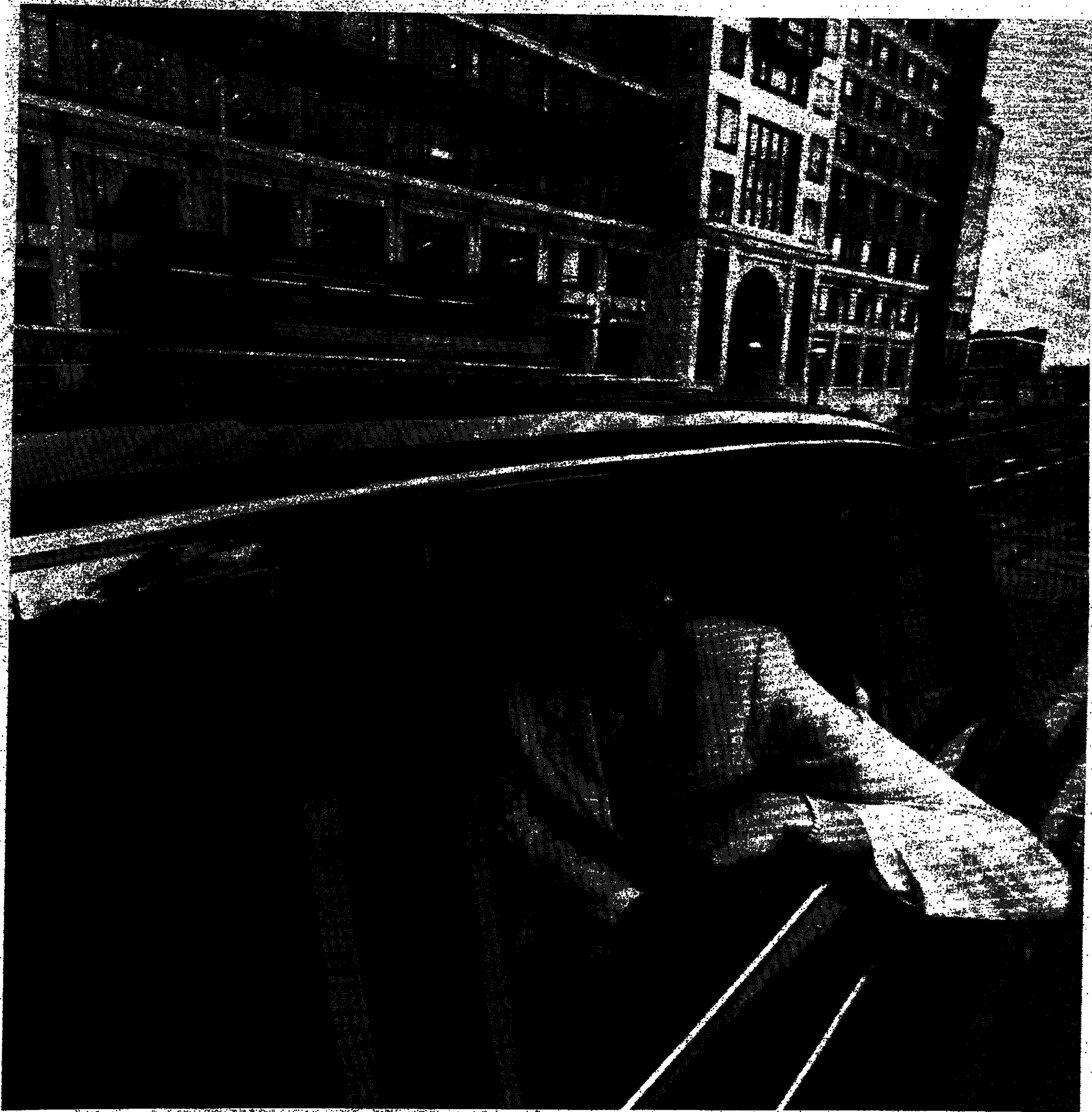
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6 WHILST AT BUSINESS SCHOOL
MY TUTOR TOLD ME TO TRY EVERYTHING ONCE.
HE WAS WRONG.
1 ONCE FLEW TO BOSTON WITH ANOTHER AIRLINE 9

Heather Nicol, Investment Banker.



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صكنا من الاصل

ACCOUNTANCY

Clinton's \$45bn tax crackdown

BY BRUCE LASSMAN

THE NEW Administration may significantly affect the way British firms do business in America. Bill Clinton's economic plan for the period from 1993-6 presumes that foreign firms will contribute an extra \$45 billion in tax. Since UK companies represent the largest source of foreign investment in the US, they may be affected the most.

The president elect has provided several indications as to how he would raise projected revenues and some details of proposed tax incentives to stimulate a sluggish economy. □ The most controversial proposal to increase tax revenue is to crack down on transfer pricing abuses. There is a perception that foreign companies sell goods to their US subsidiaries at inflated prices to reduce their taxable US income, but on this issue Mr Clinton has clearly stated no changes would be made to current transfer pricing legislation. Instead he intends to rely on stricter enforcement by raising the number of IRS lawyers assigned to transfer pricing cases and improved management of the cases. Although increased transfer

pricing enforcement may raise some revenue, it will not come close to raising \$45 billion.

Mr Clinton may therefore be tempted to support a previous legislative proposal which would set a minimum amount of taxable income to be reported by US corporations at least 25 per cent foreign owned and on US branches of foreign corporations with annual related party gross receipts of \$2 million. The proposal would require taxable income from any category of business to be no less than 75 per cent of the amount determined by applying an average industry profit percentage to the taxpayer's gross receipts. Companies might have to pay tax even when making losses.

□ Foreign investors selling shares of a US corporation are generally not subject to US capital gains tax, except where the US corporation had invested a substantial portion of its assets in US property. A proposal has been introduced three times, most recently in 1992, which would modify this rule to impose US tax on capital gains generated by foreigners making sales of 10 per cent or greater interests in



Friend or foe? President-elect Bill Clinton at an election rally on Wall Street

US corporations. Since the UK/US income tax treaty does not contain a capital gain exemption, UK multinationals may be affected by such provisions. Thus, UK companies should restructure now in order to avoid tax being levied on appreciation to date in their US subsidiaries.

□ Another potential revenue raiser could be to limit the deductibility of certain payments made to foreigners. In form it would be similar to the earnings stripping legislation in 1989 which may deny US tax deductions for "excessive" interest payments made by US taxpayers to foreign related parties. Any proposed legislation could extend these rules to payments for other expenses such as rents, royalties or management fees.

□ Another legislative proposal that could be revived would deny tax treaty benefits to investors doing business in the US unless they were qualified residents of a treaty jurisdiction. In addition, the proposal would have denied treaty benefits on payments made by US corporations to foreign entities where the latter suffers a significantly lower tax burden under the laws of the treaty jurisdiction than domestic residents. This proposal violates many existing income tax treaties, so it could be phased in, allowing America's treaty partners to renegotiate any treaty not already containing such an anti-treaty shopping provision. Indeed, several of the above measures

could provoke retaliation from trading partners and might therefore have to be dropped or modified. However, one thing is certain. The Clinton Administration will need to generate revenue and will look to foreign investors to bear a bigger share of the burden.

Efforts to boost the American economy will have other implications for foreign investors along with American companies, including the benefit of tax incentives. To encourage capital investment, specifically in new plants and productive equipment, Mr Clinton has proposed the pre-1987 investment tax credit be reinstated. This could take the form of a 10 per cent credit on incremental capital spending. The tax credit for US based R&D, currently suspended, is likely to be made permanent. Mr Clinton has also proposed tax incentives for business investors creating jobs for inner cities. Along with these carrots, Mr Clinton may use a stick, requiring every employer to spend 1.5 per cent of payroll on worker retraining, or deposit an equivalent amount in a federal fund. The author heads Ernst & Young's London US tax desk

Now down to work — for a change

NO ONE ever said calculation of a profit figure was easy. The problem is that the investing public expects it to be so. And that means the latest round of changes in financial reporting will provoke even greater confusion. Critics will complain. Finance directors forced to report worse results than they would like, or would have been able to under the old rules, will also complain. All should be ignored. The ASB's efforts are aimed at getting analysts, companies and auditors to do a bit of the work for a change. This should be applauded.

But first, the smokescreen: the rules under FRS 3, the new standard, which govern the reporting of financial performance will apply to all financial statements for reporting periods ending on or after June 22 next year, though the ASB urges companies to adopt them "as soon as possible". For at least a year we are going to have the most glorious confusion as everyone tries either to fiddle their figures or to claim everyone else's are fiddled. We have already seen the first stage of this from within the ASB's own ranks. It is a common practice in America but this is the first time in the UK that a standard has been published which contained a dissenting view. The dissenter is Robert Bradford, the urban head of research at Cazenove. The main thrust of his argument about the new standard is that he "fears that it could frequently produce misleading measures of performance". This is undoubtedly true and he has also produced a mass of hypothetical figures showing how in certain, by no means unusual, circumstances results could reveal one thing under FRS3 and a totally different message under the old system. The odd thing about this dissenting view is that no one really disagrees with it. The old rules, enshrined in SSAP6, would have been fine if anyone had taken the slightest notice of them. Even Allan Cook, the ASB's mild-mannered technical director, has been stung by Bradford's effective call for the old system to be maintained. In *Accountancy* Age he argued there had been two previous attempts "to get preparers to provide figures honestly and auditors to audit honestly and to distinguish clearly between ordinary and extraordinary items. But over the years it has become abundantly clear to auditors that they could not hold companies to those divisions".

Even Mr Bradford agrees with that diagnosis. In the privately circulated and

lengthier version of his dissenting view he says "few have chosen to disagree with the general principles behind the present requirements, set out in SSAP6, but these requirements are not being adhered to by companies, nor are they being enforced by auditors". So we seem to be back in the old cleft stick. Users want to pluck a one-line figure from the accounts and use it as their yardstick of performance, but at the same time the preparers and auditors of accounts behave so disgracefully the figures are pretty meaningless.

The answer, as the ASB has rightly decided, is to force preparers into better disclosure and users into better analysis. "It will no longer be credible for those analysing financial statements", said the ASB, "to sit on some aggregate number presented in the accounts and, without due consideration of its components, deem that to be the sole indicator of a company's performance." This is already having an effect. A County NatWest equity briefing, while welcoming the new rules, points out "the very fact that published, headline numbers will be considered virtually useless by the professional investment community, will force a major re-think of relevant performance indicators and criteria". In the past, such basic changes brought rules deemed unusable by preparers, followed by a campaign of ridicule, then City pressure forcing their overthrow.

This will not happen this time. The credibility of financial reporting has at last started to have some effect on share prices. As County NatWest says: "Analysts and fund managers should begin honing their interpretative skills." The Bradford argument should be borne in mind. Nonsensical figures will, in some circumstances, appear. The importance of this dissenting view is that analysts, if they have understood it, will have no excuse for not delving deeper and asking the right questions at briefings. Equally, companies will be expected to publish extra information to clarify the figures. The key to success is being able to calculate what County NatWest calls "maintainable" earnings. FRS3 will make it more obvious how much of the figures relate to one-offs and how much to continuing operations. Judging a company on its ability to sustain earnings from its core business will be a new experience.

The author is Associate Editor of *Accountancy* Age



ROBERT BRUCE

Thanks — and goodbye

FEW insolvency practitioners can afford to let loyalties interfere with their careers and Tracy Maris is no exception. She is this year's winner of the Leonard Curtis prize in the joint insolvency examination board examinations. Having qualified with Price Waterhouse in Birmingham and obtained her insolvency licence there, she promptly announced she was leaving to join the local offices of Grant Thornton, collecting a Victorian silver salver and a cheque from Leonard Curtis along the way. True to form, she missed the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency annual dinner at the Guildhall, London, as she was sailing down the Nile. "It

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

was booked a long time ago," says Maris, 28, who started in Grant Thornton's special services group this week.



Maris: Up the Nile

Home win

KPMG Management Consulting and the *Local Government Chronicle*, sponsored an award for best local authority environment project. The winner, the London Borough of Sutton, developed a network of banks for glass, papers, rags, cans and batteries. The prize was a trophy and a trip to Sweden. The project leader was Helmut Lusser, a Swede.

Thanks to Chris Nelms of Bromley, for this offering: Auditors are the people who come in after the battle is lost and bayonet the wounded.

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MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 77.9
(day's range 77.8-78.0).

STANDING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 11	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
Amsterdam	2.7168-2.7200	2.7248-2.7290	1 1/4-1 1/2	1 1/2-1 3/4
Buenos Aires	19.90-19.90	19.93-49.98	3-7/8	16-25 1/2
Copenhagen	3.9250-9.91	9.92-10.10	2 1/2-3 1/2	8 1/2-9 1/2
Dublin	0.9098-0.9214	0.9180-0.9214	55-53 1/2	172-185 1/2
Frankfurt	1.9100-1.9100	1.9100-1.9100	1-1 1/2	1-1 1/2
Lisbon	214.23-215.64	214.23-215.67	225-26 1/2	615-690 1/2
Madrid	171.46-174.40	172.60-174.20	110-115 1/2	315-335 1/2
Mexico	200.00-207.2	200.00-207.80	100-105 1/2	315-335 1/2
Montreal	1.9136-1.9353	1.9331-1.9353	0.09-0.10	0.09-0.10
New York	5.1310-5.1310	5.1310-5.1310	0.34-0.33	1.24-1.24
Oaks	9.7740-9.8960	9.8550-9.8710	1 1/2-1 1/2	5 1/2-5 1/2
Paris	8.1430-8.2090	8.1950-8.2090	1 1/2-1 1/2	5 1/2-5 1/2
Stockholm	3.0200-3.1460	3.0200-3.1460	1 1/2-1 1/2	5 1/2-5 1/2
Tokyo	187.81-189.54	188.96-189.25	1 1/2-1 1/2	5 1/2-5 1/2
Yokohama	160.00-17.0850	160.00-17.0850	1 1/2-2 1/2	6 1/2-8 1/2
Zurich	2.7120-2.1837	2.7140-2.7140	1 1/2-2 1/2	5 1/2-5 1/2
Source: Ecolt			Premium - pr. Discount - ds.	

OTHER MARKETS

Argentina peso 1.5195-1.5211

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia 1.4457-1.4467

Brazil cruzeiro	2.2003-2.2035	Austria	11.20-11.22
Bolivian dollar	0.560-0.715	Belgium (Com.)	25.22-76.78
Spanish dollar	3.12001-3.12000-8	Denmark	1.2654-1.2659
Cypriot pound	0.715-0.723	France	6.1125-6.1175
Poland zlotka	7.560-7.5625	Germany	1.5875-1.5885
Greece drachma	310.77-312.23	Hong Kong	7.730-7.731
Hong Kong dollar	11.7650-11.7744	Ireland	1.459-1.461
India rupee	4.291-4.2937	Italy	1356.0-1358.0
Kanari dollar K.D.	0.4505-0.4575	Japan	124.10-124.15
Malaysian dollar	3.8415-3.8459	Switzerland	2.52-2.523
Mexico peso	11.77-12.0	Netherlands	1.7840-1.7875
New Zealand dollar	2.9045-2.9121	Norway	0.6925-0.6975
Saudi Arabian riyal	4.75-4.76	Sweden	141.4-141.6
Singapore dollar	2.4907-2.4940	Singapore	1.6365-1.6375
Algeria rand (fin)	7.0601-7.2293	Spain	115.5-116.5
Africa rand (ind)	4.25-4.26	Switzerland	1.4328-1.4338
A & B dirham	5.2550-5.635		
Harlebury Bank GRS - Lloyds Bank			

MONDAY, JANUARY (5%)				
Base Rates: Clearing Banks & Finance Hse 9%				
Discount Market Loans: Overnight high 9%	Low 7%			Week fixed: 8%
Treasury Bills (91day): 2 mth 6 1/2%, 3 mth 6 1/2%, Sell: 2 mth 6 1/4%, 3 mth 6 1/4%				

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Bid)	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%
Sterling Money Rates:	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%
Interbank:	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%
Overseas open 9% close 7%					

Local Authority Depos:	7 1/4%	n/a	7	6 1/4%	6 1/4%
Sterling CDs:	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%
Dollar CDs:	3.15-3.11	n/a	3.51-3.42	3.52-3.42	3.86-3.82
Building Society CDs:	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%		

BOCIS: Fixed Rate Sterling Open Finance, Make-up day: Oct 30, 1992 agreed day: 1992 Jan 25, 1992 to Dec 25, 1992 Scheme 1: 9.77%, Schemes II & III: 9.63%. Reference 1992 Oct 1, 1992 to Oct 30, 1992 Scheme IV & V: 8.65%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)					
Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Deutschmark:	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
French Franc:	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
Swiss Franc:	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
Yen:	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%

GOLD & SILVER MEDALS (Bullion Co)		
Bullion: Open \$31.50-332.00	Cash: \$31.50-332.40	High: \$31.50-332.40
Low \$330.00-330.50	Kruggerand: \$331.00-330.50	\$216.50-217.50
Sovereigns: OM \$79.00-80.00	\$50.00-52.00	NM \$79.00-80.00
\$79.00-80.00		\$79.00-80.00

Cosmic jokes in Spanish

Peter Ackroyd on Dali: a life longer than his moustache and stranger than his art

He came from Catalonia, and is now buried within the little theatre of Figueras which he visited as a child: the music hall has become a tomb and, as Meredith Etherington-Smith says in this colourful biography, it represents Salvador Dali's last joke against his countrymen. But this region also made up the landscape of his imagination: the great Ampurdan plain, just beyond the town, was the canvas upon which he always painted and became both the terrain of his art and the lodestone of his life.

That life was, according to Etherington-Smith, one of "secretiveness, silences and confusion". His father was called Salvador Dali, his brother was called Salvador Dali — the latter died before the third and final Salvador Dali was born, however.

And the artist seems never to have lost the anxiety of double identity. From the beginning he was something of a monster: temper tantrums, feigned illnesses and faecal obsessions were only the most superficial elements in a life of utter self-devotion. Of course the monster always inhabits a monstrous world and, as Etherington-Smith puts it, "Dali's Surrealism was autobiographical".

If he was devoted to anything other than himself it was to his painting, and from an early age he passed through Impressionism, Cubism and Purism until he came out the other side as Dali. But there is one very important quality which persists from his earliest days as a student of art: he knew how to draw superbly, and his skill as a draughtsman lies beneath those curious fantasies which owe as much to Sigmund Freud as to Hieronymus Bosch.

He followed his genius to Paris, having decided to abandon the old Spain which he saw variously embedded in his bourgeois family (*putrefacto* was one of his favourite terms of abuse) and in the folkloric poetry of Garcia Lorca — to whose person he had once been considerably attached. "Dali was beginning to burn his bridges with the zeal of an arsonist," Etherington-Smith

explains, and all at once he fell into the arms of the over-inflated and over-rated French Surrealist, Luis Buñuel was the midwife for this new birth, and the two Spaniards managed to collaborate (for a moment, at least) on *Un Chien Andalou*. But Dali was never really a Surrealist at all: he was never more or less than himself, and although Cyril Connolly noticed a great deal of id in that famous film, there was also a considerable amount of Ego.

In this period Dali began to develop his "paranoiac-critical" aesthetics — a method of mad but suspicious divination which might profitably have been applied to his great love, Gala, who now advanced towards him like something out of one of his own paintings.

She needed a genius, preferably a rich one, and in Dali she found the next best thing. As a functioning human being, however, he was less satisfactory. He was in the middle of a nervous breakdown when they first met (largely, it seems, because he did not feel that he was famous enough), dressed like a combination of madman and gigolo, and could not handle the most simple tasks. He could not travel, and he did not know what to do with money. Gala came rapidly to his assistance in both these matters, and to the end of her increasingly riddled life acted as his business manager and agent.

Dali had a more important task to perform: he had to create himself, and he devoted more time to the construction of that particular work of art than to anything else. "I regarded most of the people I met," he once wrote, "solely and exclusively as creatures I could use as porters in my voyage of ambition." It is hard to trust anything he ever says about himself, but for once he seems utterly sincere.

One contemporary has explained that Dali was "scared by life", and indeed the obsessiveness of his ambition does suggest the strategy of a highly vulnerable man. He always seemed to place something between himself and the outer world — when Gala was not available the moustache, which was

DALI

By Meredith Etherington-Smith
Sinclair-Stevenson, £20



Soft Self-Portrait with Grilled Bacon, 1941: Dali discovered his own commercial potential while living in America during the war

almost the length of a washing line, would do. Hence the inordinate attention he paid to publicity and scandal which, like a large balloon, carried him out of proper sight. He gave a lecture in a diving suit. He arrived at the Sorbonne in a white Rolls-Royce filled with cauliflowers. He walked through Paris with a loaf of bread 15 yards long. He could also lose himself in the fashionable world, and there is no doubt that only a very desperate or frightened man could have

become so attached to "Society". He and Gala remained in America during the second world war. Unlike the crustaceans with which he festooned his art, he had a hard core beneath the soft surface: he might behave as a madman, or genius, or mythographer, but there always remained the beady-eyed instinct for fame and money beneath these more vainglorious gestures. André Breton was quite right to make the famous anagram out of his name: "Avida Dollars". Yet he

was still an artist, albeit one who seemed compelled to rely upon the extraordinary intense vision of his childhood; as a result he never really developed, and could create an appropriate effect only by becoming more shocking. The surrealism degenerated into "happenings" and "performance art", and he dipped into his private vision so often that it became shallow.

In his last years his life declined, like his art, into a parody of itself as he entered a wearisome routine of

voyeuristic sexual decadence, mercenary deals, and paranoid behaviour. After the death of Gala, his muse and his jailer, he degenerated still further until he lay in bed all day and cried for death. Yet this is not necessarily an unhappy story: in Etherington-Smith's account, it is an inexplicably funny and even joyful account of an artist who turned his life into a pantomime and thus expressed himself fully. His tomb in the Dali Museum is above the ladies' lavatory.

Chronicles from the heart of Europe

Michael Hofmann

A TIME TO SPEAK
By Helen Lewis
Blackstaff, £6.95pbk
UNDER THE FROG
By Tibor Fischer
Polygon £7.95pbk

The one thing these books have in common is that both, in a manner of speaking, are by refugees. Their existence in English — or at all, for that matter — is providential: they extend the range of feeling and experience available to the language. Helen Lewis is a Sudentland Jew who survived Auschwitz and after the war went to Belfast where she still lives and works as a choreographer and teacher of dance. Tibor Fischer's parents left Hungary after 1956: he was born in 1961 in Manchester.

Helen Lewis is not a writer, and her short book compels the reader's interest only once she has arrived in the Theresienstadt ghetto in August 1942. Once there, though, her calm, individual voice describes harrowing illness, privation, chicory and — most troublingly — kindness.

The lesson she imparts is that Auschwitz was staffed not by categories (nationalities, military ranks or organisations), but by individuals. Up to a point, each person has a choice of how to behave. The unforgettable figures — but for Lewis's insistence on them, one might find them sentimental — are the German officers who stop and chat, or smuggle in food or medicine, or an SS woman, "small, frail and dark with an expression of sadness in her eyes that was not unlike ours", for whom, extraordinarily, Lewis feels sorry.

Conversely, there are the "wild looking creatures in striped prison clothes" — established inmates, then — who give new arrivals at Auschwitz a savage welcome: there are acquaintances from Prague now corrupted into sadists. Most unbearably of all, there is a friend who deserts her for another woman — a trivial matter, no more than a classroom drama, really, except that to be friendless in a concentra-

tion camp was to be doomed, and that little act of faithfulness almost cost Helen Lewis her life.

Under the Frog — the title is taken from a rather gnomic Hungarian proverb for the worst place in the world to be: "under the frog's arse down a coalmine" — is a quite wonderful book, deservedly winner of this year's Betty Trask Award and surely a cult in the making. I wish someone would make a film of it, a Czech director preferably, and ideally in 1965. A lot of comic writing demeans its reader, its subject and the writer. Not Fischer. He takes a serious subject, Hungary from 1944 to 1956, and is seriously funny about it. By the time it is finished, not only have you learned a lot about Hungary, but you are convinced that Fischer's approach is the only one possible.

His gift is to bring Englishness to bear on Hungary, Oxbridge swag on the totalitarian state. Just William on Corporal Schweik. The result is plausible, insolent, sophisticated and hungry. It takes skill and daring for Fischer to persevere with his approach to the bitter end, but he does. "Tears, in teams, assailed down his face."

Under the Frog is a clever, humane and original book. One tour de force follows another: the Locomotive basketball team (our heroes) travelling naked on their ex-SS luxury wagon to a provincial game; a Jesuit priest taking on all comers in eating contests. There are strings of jokes about the Romanians, the Hungarian Army, the backwardness of the countryside, bodily functions, suicide (the Hungarian vice), the secret police, the great neighbour to the east.

Fischer is prodigious with his comic descriptions: red hair "bolt upright, like a thistle", a monument to Stalin "sodomising the Budapest skyline". The style is modern rococo, but it gives expression to youth and freedom. Glorious!

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Men, women and clergymen

Melanie McDonagh

THE FABER BOOK OF CHURCH AND CLERGY
Edited by A.N. Wilson
Faber, £17.50
WOMEN AND MYSTICAL EXPERIENCES OF THE MIDDLE AGES
By Frances Beer
Boydell & Brewer, £29.50



Hildegard of Bingen: visions

resorting to really un-Christ-like rhetoric — you would have to go far to beat Evelyn Waugh's letter to John Betjeman about the Church of England: "What is inconceivable is that Christ was made flesh in order to found a Church... and then to point to a handful of homosexual curates and say: 'That is the true Church.'"

Having turned against the essentials of Christianity, Wilson sets particular store by his outward forms — liturgy, dress and traditions. The Alternative Service Book, vicars who live in bungalows, congregations who want to drink coffee from plastic cups after services, all upset him. Contemporary churchmen might protest that they are not in the business of providing a well-furnished museum for the edification of non-believers, but happily Wilson commemorates the

old furniture in delightful chapters on "Clerical Attire" and "Scenes from Clerical Life". Altogether, Wilson seems rather well disposed towards churches and clergy: it's a shame he draws the line at Christ.

After exposure to fastidious unbelief, it comes as a relief to turn to the raw meat of Julian of Norwich, Mechthild of Magdeburg and Hildegard of Bingen, the three women mystics celebrated in *Women and Mystical Experiences of the Middle Ages* by Frances Beer (Boydell & Brewer, PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 3DF). But relish at the robust and exuberant faith of these truly remarkable nuns occasionally falters in the face of the author's well-meaning but pedestrian prose. She is perhaps optimistic to claim that the voices of the women she describes are new. "Hearing even a

few of them, realising that medieval women were not inevitably mute and subservient is a little like finding out that the world is not flat after all and that there are wonderful unexplored continents on the other side." As a matter of fact, women medieval mystics have been something of a growth industry in recent years: an invaluable resource for feminist theology.

But it is heartening to be reminded of the existence of Julian and the rest. For one thing, theirs was a wholly feminine voice within Catholicism. Hildegard's very concrete, vivid visions — a pregnant woman representing the Church, the creation as a vast cosmic egg, containing sphere within sphere of reality — are a remarkable way of gaining access to ineffable truth. Visions sidestep the masculine, analytical way of approaching the divine in theology; they are entirely personal, but they express the inexpressible better than any amount of rational thinking about God. Mechthild's visions of union with Christ, like those of St Teresa of Avila, are as highly-charged as any profane poetry.

The striking aspect of these women mystics is of course that two were nuns and one, Julian, was a hermit. It would seem that one answer to the problem of women within the Church is not for them to warm their way into the male hierarchy, but to have hierarchies all of their own. Wilson would have got short shrift from Hildegard: beside faith like hers, angst about the Alternative Service Book seems rather beside the point.

Melanie McDonagh is on the staff of the Evening Standard and a contributor to The Tablet

Justifying man's ways to God

Frank Field

HIGH AND MITRED
Prime Ministers as Bishop Makers
1837-1977
By Bernard Palmer
SPCK, £20

those which followed, the Crown's power of appointment came to rest firmly in the hands of the prime minister. But the old political apparatus remained something more than what Bagehot described as a dignified part of the constitu-

tion. Prime ministers could get their way but only after defending their choice, and those, like Disraeli, who had little detailed knowledge of church politics and personalities, found the Queen had little difficulty in shooting down their arguments.

The remarkable thing is not how badly, but how well this system worked. And the argument for delegating limited legislative authority to the church — that Parliament would not find the time to enact church measures — does not apply when it comes to appointments to the bench. With very few exceptions prime ministers took a

delight in spending time choosing the next generation of church leaders. The prime minister still has the unfettered right to select candidates for English deaneries in most cathedral deaneries.

The reformers are now arguing for the Crown to surrender its power to an appointments process dominated by Synod. The arguments for change range from a simple UDI to the more sophisticated arguments about a spiritual body needing to be independent of secular power. Given the conventional wisdom that priests are curmudgeons when it comes to ambition, though, how should senior

Three ages of reason

John Gray

IN SEARCH OF A BETTER WORLD
Lectures and Essays from Thirty Years
By Karl Popper
Routledge, £25
POSTMODERNISM, REASON AND RELIGION
By Ernest Gellner
Routledge, £8.99 pbk original
THE POST-MODERNIST ALWAYS RINGS TWICE
Reflections on Culture in the Nineties
By Gilbert Adair
Fourth Estate, £14.99

Though its impact on professional philosophers has been (and is likely to remain) negligible, the thought of Karl Popper has had a large influence beyond academic philosophy — on politicians, research scientists, and historians of art, among others. The success of Popper's thought as a species of popular philosophy is not hard to explain. Unlike academic philosophy, Popper's thought encompasses an entire world-view, a picture of man and his place in nature. It thereby satisfies a need not addressed by academic philosophy — the need for a vision of the meaning of human life that can be accepted in a post-religious age.

Popper's thought is, in fact, the last — and perhaps the best — exemplar of the religion of humanity that the philosophers of the Enlightenment concocted as the successor of Christianity. In this respect, as in many others, it has much in common with its arch-rival, Marxism. For Popper, as for Marx, it is science that sets the standard of truth in all spheres of life. Man is conceived as a problem-solving animal on an evolutionary continuum, and the path of progress is found in the application of scientific method to the problems of human society.

It is probably the shallow optimism of this view, together with the prestige it borrows from science, that accounts for its popular appeal. If Marxism was a sort of fundamentalism of Enlightenment, Popperism is a revisionist version of the same world-improving secular faith, its chief advantage over Marxism being that its very vagueness insulates it from the practical falsification by historical events that has befallen Marxism.

If there is any common feature in the prolific literature of postmodernism, it is a suspicion of edification, and a pervasive irony about all claims to a unique truth. Gellner's *Postmodernism, Reason and Religion* is a sustained polemic against that spirit of irony, but one — unlike Popper's — that is enlivened by wit and an engaging sense of mischief. For Gellner, we moderns have only three stances to the world to choose from: the liberal fundamentalism of revealed religion; the anything-goes relativism that calls itself postmodernism; and what Gellner himself calls Fundamentalist Enlightenment Rationalism. He has a good deal of fun at the expense of the far-out varieties of relativism, and he is candid about the confounding of the Enlightenment's secularist expectations by Islam.

Gellner fails to convince the reader, however, that the overturning by Islam of the Enlightenment dogma that modern societies are necessarily secular tells us something about the peculiarities of Islam, rather than something about the limitations of Enlightenment Fundamentalism. The weakness of his own position is, perhaps, in its very modesty: it is a rationalism without any particular content, a Cheshire Cat among later-day stances of Enlightenment, with only the mocking snarl remaining.

It is a signal virtue of Gilbert Adair's *The Post-Modernist Always Rings Twice* that it is altogether free of the deadening spirit of gravity that burdens Popper's writings and that shows up, at a pinch, even in Gellner's. This is cultural criticism at its most incisive and punchy. For its admirable freedom from nostalgia for lost harmonies, its gleeful acceptance of plural truth as our historical fate, and the sheer verve of its play on the shifting surfaces of a world constructed by the culture industries, Adair's book can be warmly recommended.

church posts be filled? Many know that this line is merely a public facade. So thank God for those prelates who accepted promotion by return of post to No. 10.

A system which works well is still capable of improvement. The present system gives far too much power to the prime minister's patronage secretary. All senior posts should be advertised, with the Crown having a majority on any appointing committee.

But a Crown patronage system which has given Sir Tait Davidson, Henson, Temple and Ramsey is quite a lot to say for itself. Palmer is unable to quote any example of a candidate who merited a senior appointment and failed to gain promotion. Maybe God is trying to tell us something.

Three
ages
reason

Consent unto death

Christina Koning prefers mellow fruitfulness from Bellow to studied superficiality from Tama Janowitz

In *The Human Age*, his satirical reworking of *The Divine Comedy*, Wyndham Lewis described contemporary society as "the morose inferno" — a phrase borrowed by Saul Bellow (and later, by Martin Amis) to evoke the peculiar quality — at once hectic and deadened — of urban life in the United States. Novels such as *Herzog*, *Mr Sammler's Planet* and, more recently, *The Dean's December*, offered a panoramic view of the inferno, chronicling its horrors and inanities with a kind of appalled humor.

In recent years, Bellow has abandoned the broad canvas of these earlier works for a more compressed form. Now, instead of a multiplicity of stories illustrating a theme, we get a single, exemplary story. "This is the end of the millennium," the author writes in the introduction to this latest book, justifying this new concision. "We have heard it all. We have no time."

The three works collected here (two of which were first published in 1989), offer a distillation of themes which have preoccupied Bellow throughout his career. In each, a single incident brings about the revaluation of an entire history: the "turntable" on which a protagonist has been going round suddenly becomes a "vortex", into which he finds himself drawn.

For the narrator of *The Bellarosa Connection*, the vortex is the past. As the founder of an institute devoted to researching the nature of memory, he has spent his life exploring one type of remembering — the mechanical retention of facts — but has neglected another, more important aspect, which is to remember (that is, acknowledge) his own Jewish identity. Recalling, in old age, an absurd confrontation which took place 30 years before between his cousin Harry Feinstein and Billy Rose, the Broadway impresario who had engineered Feinstein's escape from the Nazis, the narrator realises that the dispute epitomised the conflict between Jewish "remembering" and the willful forgetfulness of the assimilated American immigrant.

The tensions between the New World and the Old are also central to *A Theft*, in which a wealthy New York matron hires a young Austrian girl to look after her children, only to find her trust betrayed, when a valuable ring is stolen by the girl's Haitian boyfriend. As in the previous story, the central character is forced to reconsider her assumptions about others and about herself when this apparently unequivocal event turns out to have unforeseen consequences.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY
Three Tales
By Saul Bellow
Secker & Warburg, £13.99
GRANTA 41:
Biography
Penguin, £6.99 pbk original
THE MALE CROSS-DRESSER SUPPORT GROUP
By Tama Janowitz
Picador, £8.99 pbk original

Here, the confrontation between effete, guilt-ridden middle-class and predatory underclass, which has been dramatised elsewhere in Bellow's fiction, is given a comic slant: no one gets hurt, and nothing is really lost. This benign mood extends to the final title story, *Something to Remember Me By*, in which the narrator recalls an incident from his youth in Chicago, nearly sixty years before. Escaping the claustrophobic atmosphere of the house where his mother is dying, the 17-year-old protagonist is inveigled into a ludicrously compromising situation by a rapacious prostitute. Throughout his ordeal, as a result of which he is obliged to assume women's clothes in order to avoid freezing to death, his one fear is that his mother will die before his return home. One can imagine that in an earlier work this situation might well have been allowed to end in tragedy; that it does not indicates the gentler, more restrained mood of Bellow's late work.

Providentially enough, the opportunity for comparison between early and late Bellow is provided by the appearance of an extract from an unfinished early novel, *Memoirs of a Bootlegger's Son*, in the current issue of *Granta*. As the author himself acknowledges, much of the material it contains, describing the struggles of a Russian Jewish immigrant family in turn-of-the-century Montreal, was later incorporated in *Herzog*, but the extract remains interesting for the insight it provides into the development of a great American writer. Apart from the Bellow story, the issue also includes an essay on Bellow's early life by James Atlas (who discovered the unfinished manuscript), as well as contributions from *Granta* regulars. If Bellow himself seems in recent years to have relinquished his role as historian of the morose inferno, any number of younger writers are willing to take his place. One of these is Tama Janowitz, whose first book, *Slaves of New York*, chronicled the sexual



peccadilloes of Manhattan bohemians, and whose latest book extends this preoccupation with American low-life into even more bizarre territory. Its opening pages, in fact, present a picture of New York street life which resembles something out of Hieronymus Bosch — the streets "churn with creatures of the elemental variety", muggers and rapists lurk in every doorway, and everyone else is either stunted, grotesquely fat, or insane. Janowitz's narrator, Pamela Trowell, is an innocent abroad in this nightmare world, fending off the lewd attentions of various ghastly suitors, while trying to hang on to her job selling ads on a dubious publication called *Hunter's*

World. Following the obligatory series of comic misunderstandings, she becomes the target of a man-hunt, wanted for terrorism, kidnapping and possibly murder. In road-movie style, she takes off in her rented car, with only a small boy dressed as a girl and a severed head for company. This is a cartoon version of the inferno in which horror is played for laughs; any serious commentary is buried beneath slapstick. The disintegration of the American Dream is a theme to stretch the resources of the most accomplished writer. Janowitz's response, like that of her fellow "Brat-pack" writers Jay McInerney and Bret Easton Ellis, is to eschew solemnity in favour of a studied superficiality.

Sailing over the sea to die

Robert Louis Stevenson was a "popular artist" — a concept rare nowadays, or denigratory, almost a contradiction in terms. The point of writing about him, says Ian Bell, is to account for a man who "printed a handful of narratives upon the popular imagination" — notably *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Anyone who writes about Stevenson has to cope with the potency of the romantic legend of genius, sickness and exile. Ian Bell finds little gap between legend and reality.

Many readers' idea of Stevenson will have been formed by Richard Holmes's *Footsteps*, to which Bell makes little reference. Bell is a journalist, and this is his first book. He has dispensed with the customary paraphernalia of notes and references. Yet Bell is as preoccupied as Holmes by the forms and purposes of biography: "A book is not a life, not even when it hunts a life lived for books; that is the problem of narrative." Long, meditative sentences slalom gently downhill between semi-colons; the influence of period and subject seems ineluctable. Bell is sometimes repetitive, but so opinionated that his book is never dull.

Bell's great advantage is that like RLS he comes from Edinburgh, and he is effortlessly good on the bleak fierceness of the northern capital and its social and geographical intricacies. This biography, like Stevenson's own books, should be read in an Edinburgh accent. Stevenson the artist, the romantic invalid, came from a long line of tough, practical God-fearing men. For five generations, Stevensons had designed and constructed Scotland's light-houses. Louis was an only child, and one of the most touching aspects of the story is the patience that his parents showed towards the delicate, deviant son who must have seemed a mystery to them.

When it became apparent that he was unfitted for either engineering or any other profession, they subsidised his

ever-further excursions into exile, thus allowing him to remain adolescent until his mid-thirties. Half his life was over before he had accomplished anything but a few essays. Stevenson certainly suffered, but mostly he suffered in comfort, often on the Riviera. He was, writes Bell, part prodigal son, part deportee.

Stevenson leaned on and was largely controlled by strong older women. There was his childhood nurse, a Calvinist of gothic superstitions, who wound up his young imagination to fever pitch. There was his mother, born a Balfour, who in her widowhood joined him in the South Seas. Above all there was his wife Fanny, ten years older than himself, an American divorcee with two children, whom he married in San Francisco when he was 30.

Bell is very hard indeed on Stevenson's wife. Fanny seemed, he writes, "to have suffered more than most from the delusion common to the spouses of the famous that a sexual and emotional affinity implies artistic equality". He condemns as "obsessive" her defence of her status as wife, muse, manager, collaborator and confidante. Fanny can do nothing right, Bell puts her in a Catch-22 situation. When she devotes herself entirely to RLS, she is seen as domineering. When she strikes out on her own account, she is seen as ludicrously presumptuous.

Fanny was clearly a difficult woman, and sometimes unhinged. But Bell's animus provokes the reader to defend her. Stevenson was in constant peril of dying from the tuberculosis that finally killed him when he was 44. During three quiet years in Bournemouth, on which Fanny insisted, he

suffered continual haemorrhages and was often unable to speak for days. In bed, he wrote the 30,000 words of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* in just three days. When Fanny objected to the way he had done it, he redrafted the whole book in another three days. Bell slams her for goading the sick man and for thinking she could guide his genius. But maybe her energetic intransigence kept him alive.

It was *Dr Jekyll*, closely followed by *Kidnapped*, that catapulted Stevenson to fame. Bournemouth was abandoned, and the Stevensons' wanderings became more ambitious. First they went to Saranac in the Adirondacks near the Canadian border. But Stevenson needed heat. They sailed into the Pacific and never returned to Europe. Bell quotes from a missionary's account of their arrival at Samoa, which became their last home. Both RLS, in dirty white flannels, and Fanny's son were barefoot. Fanny wore white canvas shoes, a print frock, a local straw hat with seashells round it, and a scarlet scarf. She had a guitar on her back and her son, in striped pyjamas, had a banjo. RLS had come a long, long way from the dour decencies of Edinburgh's New Town.

In Samoa he was not just an ageing flower child *avant la lettre*. He took a polemical interest in island politics. Coming from a small and threatened culture, he embraced and defended the island way of life, which was in danger of being extinguished by the imperial incursions of Britain, Germany and America. What determined his life and character, Bell thinks, was Scotland, the flight from Scotland — and his illness.

It is surprising, not that he died when he did, but that he survived so long. As a footnote to the horrifying sequences of haemorrhages, collapses, and attacks of blindness, sciatia and speechlessness, it is alarming to learn that he smoked cigarettes continuously — all the time, as he said, except "when coughing or kissing".

Victoria Glendinning
DREAMS OF EXILE
Robert Louis Stevenson
By Ian Bell
Mainstream, £14.99

Lowdown on a low form of life

Why — as the poet Robert Graves once asked in his poem "A Slice of Wedding Cake" — "have such scores of lovely, gifted girls married impossible men?" A fair question. Deirdre Redgrave, a.k.a. She Who Would Drown In My Eyes, had to rescue Jeffrey Bernard when he was wedged down the lavatory, virtually comatose, one midnight still got into bed with him. When he turned vicious about her in print, she was replaced by She Who Would Iron 14 Shirts, a nanny-nurse figure named Finola who has mummified him, now that the libido is exhausted, ever since. Women have been kind. In fact, kind is a mild word for what women have been to Mr Bernard. (No man is so bad, so disgusting that some woman won't want to soothe him. They even write love letters to the Yorkshire Ripper.) Beautiful, talented and intelligent women have been unbelievably tolerant when, as Fenella Fielding put it, "there are only about 85 minutes of the day when the person concerned is their own glorious self: otherwise they're hungover, drunk, getting maudlin, getting silly, getting aggressive, and it's not that interesting."

Yet this book sustains one's interest, or appalled fascination, at the miraculous survival to the age of 60 of one who tried to open a book on his own death back in 1966 — when William Hill refused the bet "since I was such a warm order in their book". Jeffrey Bernard, né Jerry, was the naughty Branwell Brontë (the fourth, babied, son) of a family in which each child grew up "lonely to the bone" despite a clever father and a spirited actress mother and calling herself Fedora, with



Jeffrey Bernard and She Who Would Drown In My Eyes

Valerie Grove
JUST THE ONE
The Wives and Times of Jeffrey Bernard
By Graham Lord
Sinclair-Stevenson, £16.99

whose salmon pink underwear young Jeff became Oedipally besotted. Irma Kurtz, the kindest of Agony Aunts, thinks it is all to do with this: "There is in Jeff something that's both the favourite son and the neglected child." Yes, a mother's place is always in the wrong. Frank-playing childhood was succeeded by insubordination at ghoulish prep schools and at Pangbourne, the naval college. After that, the Sova claimed him, a spiritual home he has never left even when removed to the racing village of Lambourn.

His eyes were very blue. Luckily he was always so menacing in my presence I never stuck around long enough to get involved as so many weaker vestal virgins did. Once, when he was again wifeless and jobless, I was implored to send him books to review and did so, only to be vilified in "Low Life" for not having paid him (untrue) and for sitting comfortably in a Fleet Street squalor (debat-

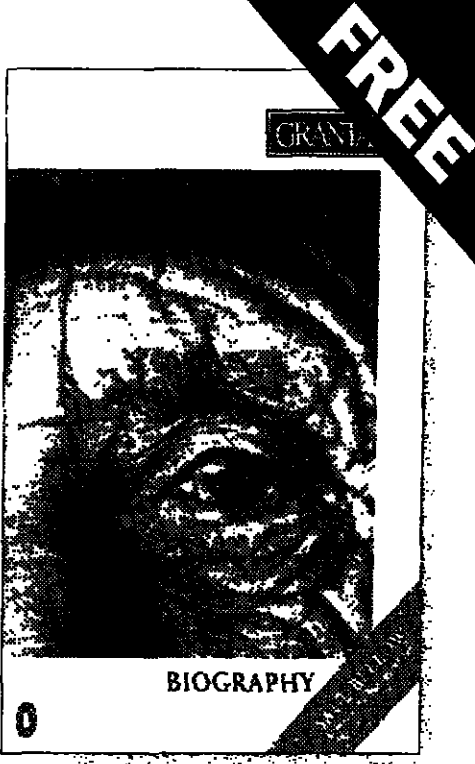
described, by his dearest friends, as "vicious, callous, utterly selfish, the meanest man they have ever met"; legendarily rude and unpleasant even to those prepared to spoonfeed him with scrambled eggs; "appalling abuser" to Shiva Naipaul's widow Jenny, who has the stressful job of waiting for his *Spectator* copy each week; permanently morose and self-pitying, incontinent and incapable of looking after himself; graceless in the face of generosity — lend him your flat and he sets the sofa alight, send him on a freebie to Barbados or the Nile and he moans about boredom.

Are there any redeeming features in this unedifying spectacle? "Yet he could be remarkably kind," writes Lord, citing the time he gave £500 to someone whose house had burned down — and then wrote a column accusing the fellow of not paying him back. No wonder he is dismayed about this over-detailed but never boring book.

For decades now, women have taken him on expecting to be his final comforter. After her husband Frank died, Geraldine Norman felt her own life was "all ashes, so why didn't I devote myself to seeing that Jeff had a comfortable death? Which I think many women have thought," she adds, "but the bugger goes on living." Irving Wardle, reviewing *Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell*, said that we must regard him as "a national institution in the same way as Falstaff or Mr Micawber." True: when he is no longer to be seen face down in the dish of the day, or a crumpled wreck asleep in an armchair at the Groucho Club, who will serve as a memento mori to the drinking generation?

Why are we so nosy?

Are biographies merely an acceptable form of gossip or do they satisfy some larger need—a need to know more than what's permitted?



The new issue of *Granta* is about other people's lives: it invades their privacy; it tells us their secrets. What will you find inside? A scoop—Saul Bellow's memoir about his father. It was written in 1954 and never published. Why? We think because of what it reveals: just a little more than what the young Bellow was happy to show the world. How did we find it? We didn't. James Atlas did. James Atlas is writing Saul Bellow's biography and knows everything about his life. Everything. You'll also find something by James Atlas in this issue—Bellow's wild early years. It's always the wildness we want to know about. The excesses. You'll read about love. Or sex. Or both. Philip Larkin's Northumberland love nest. Or Boswell in Amsterdam, unable to keep his trousers up. There's Andrew Motion and Richard Holmes and Louise Erdrich and Ian Hamilton and Lorna Sage (on Angela Carter—why did she have to die before she was appreciated?). And the

mysterious Frau Frida, killed by tidal wave in Havana as Gabriel García Márquez watched from above. We're convinced that 'Biography' is the best issue we've published in seven years and 292 days (that was when we published our best-selling issue 'Travel Writing'—now in its twelfth printing). In fact most bookshops have already sold out—before publication. But it's yours free (if we receive your order in time) with a one year subscription to *Granta*, price £19.95 (in itself a third off the normal price). What's more, we'll even guarantee it.

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هكذا نحن الاصل

Discrimination against part-timers justified

Tenant cannot be made to sue successor

Regina v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission and Another

Regina v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Hirst

[Judgment November 6]

The Equal Opportunities Commission was not entitled to a declaration that the United Kingdom was in breach of its obligations under European law by discriminating against part-time workers in the provision of statutory redundancy pay and compensation for unfair dismissal.

The Court of Appeal so held. Lord Justice Dillon dissenting on the first application by the Equal Opportunities Commission, in rejecting appeals by the EOC and Patricia Elizabeth Day against the Divisional Court's dismissal (The Times October 11, 1991) [1992] 1 All ER 1001, [1992] 1 All ER 1001, [1992] 1 All ER 1001.

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five years' service to qualify and employees working less than eight hours had no such right.

The secretary of state accepted that there was discrimination on the ground of sex, the majority of part-time employees being women but claimed it was objectively justified by factors unrelated to the discrimination and therefore not offensive to EC law.

Mrs Day was a part-time employee made redundant by the Health Authority shortly before she completed the five-year qualifying period for redundancy pay. She had brought proceedings in the industrial tribunal which were adjourned pending the outcome of the present case. In his Lordship's judgment the industrial tribunal was the appropriate forum and he would dismiss her appeal without prejudice to the tribunal proceedings.

The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 had given the EOC a general power to work towards the elimination of discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity between men and women. It was authorised to apply for judicial review where the application was successful would be the requisite in working towards the elimination of some particular instance of discrimination.

His Lordship could see no basis for denying locus to the EOC to bring to the proceedings and he had no doubt that the secretary of state's statement of the government's position was susceptible of judicial review.

The government's original rationale for having the five-year threshold for part-time workers was that their commitment differed from that of full-time workers. That could no longer be relied on, nor could the later assertion that the purpose of the thresholds was to strike a fair balance between the interests of employers and employees.

The secretary of state now said

the government's objective in having the threshold was that there should be as much part-time as possible available for those who wanted to work part-time. Without the thresholds employers would tend to engage full-time rather than part-time workers.

In his Lordship's view that the surviving shadow of the thinking that one prevailed and was now discarded that unless part-timers' basic pay was less than full-timers' the employers would engage full-time rather than part-time workers.

His Lordship could see no evidence that abolishing the five-year threshold would cause any significant reduction in the availability of part-time employment.

On the contrary, recent history in relation to other discriminatory measures underlined that according to the equal status which was justly their due had not led to the dire results forecast by the prophets of doom. No other EC member state had a comparable threshold.

His Lordship would allow the EOC appeal on its first application. Similar issues as to locus arose on the second application, which concerned the discriminatory effect of calculating redundancy pay by reference to the rate of pay on the date of redundancy. That was said to discriminate unfairly against those, mainly women, who changed to part-time working after a period of full-time working.

In this case, however, there was no valid reference point other than the existing provisions of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 and even if the court were to make a declaration of illegal discrimination on the second application it would be of no practical effect and so the second application should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY agreed with the dismissal of Mrs Day's appeal without prejudice to

her industrial tribunal case.

His Lordship could find nothing in sections 53, 55 or 75 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 to entitle the EOC to proceed against the secretary of state either to challenge his interpretation of the law or to induce him to introduce fresh legislation. It was surprising that if Parliament intended to vest the secretary of state with the power to introduce fresh legislation, it should have done so by statute, and in part on the subject matter of the application itself.

Section 53(1)(a) of the Sex Discrimination Act imposed a duty on the EOC to work towards the elimination of discrimination. That was a wide power, sufficient to embrace applications for judicial review.

The appropriate forum for an individual like Mrs Day to try to enforce directly effective rights under article 119 of the Treaty of Rome was unquestionably the industrial tribunal, particularly in view of the political and ideological overtones of the case.

It was always open to the EOC to support any suitable claimant with directly enforceable rights in industrial tribunal proceedings.

On first application, his Lordship said it was for the secretary of state to satisfy the court that the discrimination as to qualifying period for redundancy pay against those (90 per cent women) working less than 16 hours a week was objectively justified.

The Divisional Court had correctly concluded that the secretary of state had objectively justified the thresholds.

Once it was established that a threshold as such was in principle objectively justified under EC law, it was for the secretary of state to show a margin of appreciation had to be allowed to the national legislature in fixing at which precise hour or hours the line was to be drawn.

The rules relating to calculation of redundancy pay which were the subject of the second application were identical for both full-time and part-time workers and there was no condition which part-timers, unlike full-timers, were unable to meet.

The Divisional Court had been right to hold that the secretary of state had made good his objective justification in relation to the second application. His Lordship would dismiss both appeals.

Solicitors: Patten & Brewer for Mr J. Alan Lakin, Manchester; Treasury Solicitor.

Regina v Kirkup

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Mr Justice Waterhouse and Mr Justice McCullough

[Judgment November 4]

An immoral purpose within section 32 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 had to be some kind of sexual activity.

It was for the judge to rule whether a particular purpose was capable of being immoral and for the jury to decide whether it was.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by David John Kirkup against his conviction on October 15, 1990 at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court (Judge Goldstein and a jury) of importing, contrary to section 32 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956.

Section 32 of the 1956 Act provided: "It is an offence for a man to import or attempt to import into a public place for immoral purposes."

Mrs Sandra Pontac, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the defendant, Mr Godfrey Ashmore for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE

STAUGHTON, giving the judgment of the court, said that the question was who should decide that something was an immoral purpose.

Could one deduce from the statute itself what were immoral purposes? Or was it for the judge to decide in a crown court trial, and the magistrates on the advice of their clerk when the offence was tried summarily? Or was it for the jury, or the magistrates as judges of fact, to answer that question?

Parliament did not say what were to be regarded as immoral purposes within the Vagrancy Act 1898; perhaps it regarded the answer as obvious, and refrained from spelling it out through feelings of delicacy. Again in 1956 Parliament gave no definition of immoral purposes.

The court, having referred to *Condon v Edmondson* (1964) 2 QB 81; *R v Goddard* (1990) 92 Cr App R 185; *R v Grahame* (1977) 1 WLR 1083 and *R v Gray* (1981) 74 Cr App R 324, stated that the law was that an immoral purpose in section 32 had to be some kind of sexual activity.

But since that hurdle or gateway was passed, it was for the judge to

substantiate into her sole name for the benefit of the child.

Mr Simon Buckhaven for the mother, Mr Robert Purdie for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE EASTHAM said that the mother and the respondent had lived together for about ten years as though they were husband and wife and the child, although not the respondent's, had been a member of the household.

The court was entitled to make an order requiring either or both parents to transfer property to an applicant for the benefit of the child. Under the Act the word "parent" was not defined. The question was whether the respondent could properly be described as a parent of the child.

Solicitors: Gervase-Jones & Sons, Edgware; Landon & Cohen, Edgware.

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Solicitors: Gervase-Jones & Sons, Edgware; Landon & Cohen, Edgware.

Under the plain meaning of the word "parent" his Lordship was satisfied that by no stretch of the imagination could the respondent be described as a parent to be so he would have had to have been the father.

Under paragraph 16 of Schedule 1 the word "parent" was extended so as to embrace a stepfather who had treated a child as a child of the family.

Had the respondent ever married the mother he clearly would have fallen within the definition of a parent. However, he never had and therefore he could not, on any basis, be said to be a parent of the child.

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THEATRE page 40

Harriet Walter leads a powerful revival of the Royal Court's satire on art-market foibles

ARTS

LITERATURE page 41

John Cheever bullied his family so thoroughly that his son Benjamin writes about little else



CINEMA: Geoff Brown on Redford's high-tech comedy caper and Branagh's lowly comic caperings

Microchips with everything

The curtains part. The censor's certificate comes and goes. On the screen, the computerised letters read "A Turpin Cures Elvis". Then they perform an electronic shuffle, the letters now spell "Universal Pictures". High-tech mischief abounds in *Sneakers*, a big new film from the director of *Field of Dreams* that dares to entertain audiences without insulting their intelligence.

Phil Alden Robinson's story, concocted with Walter Parkes and Lawrence Lasker, scriptwriters of *WarGames*, begins in the 1960s, and is stamped by the decade's renegade spirit. There are anti-establishment jibes, gadgets galore, and a power-hungry villain left over from *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* What better film to greet the arrival of Bill Clinton, the first baby boomer to reach the White House?

The title may trip you up. This is not a film about upstart. These sneakers are a rag-tag group of technology wizards, coerced by government agents into securing control of a microchip miracle which can penetrate the world's most impenetrable computers. They conduct their business with almost childish glee, so do the star players.

Robert Redford heads the band, as a government fugitive who once wired donations from the Republican Party to the Black Panthers. Dan Aykroyd serves as gadget expert and resident loony; Sidney Poitier, dismissed from the CIA, supplies middle-class dignity. For pin-up fanciers, there is young River Phoenix, although he largely squats on the sidelines until the script sends him scuttling between floors and crawling up ducts in the toy factory lair of Ben Kingsley's evil genius.

By this point, some spark has gone. Bowing to the need for a rousing climax, Robinson makes the action increasingly far-fetched as the sneakers lay siege to Kingsley's domain. That battle won, the film drags its heels. But most spectators will forgive and forget, grateful for a highly polished film that gives the caper comedy tradition a thorough work-out, and never puts the brain cells to sleep.

Kenneth Branagh is still playing the chameleon. In *Henry V* he measured himself for Olivier's robes, while Orson Welles's ghost hovered over that Hollywood folderol *Dead Again*. Now in *Peter's Friends* Branagh foregoes bombast and camera pyrotechnics for talk, talk, talk in an English country house.

Ten years after their last appearance in an end-of-term revue, university chums are summoned for a New Year reunion by Peter (Stephen Fry), a gently dissolute lord of



Turn on, tune in, drop the baddies right in it: (from left) Dan Aykroyd, Robert Redford and Sidney Poitier get techno in a scene from *Sneakers*

the manor. Nostalgic pop songs drone on the soundtrack, shoulder-chips are aired, skeletons dragged out; a few hearts get broken and mended. Imagine *The Big Chill* rewritten by Simon Gray, and then rewritten anew as television sitcom to lure transatlantic audiences: a most unsatisfactory mix.

The American slant stems from the script, by comedienne Rita Rudner and Martin Bergman. Wiscracks fly, many from the mouth of Rudner herself as a die-hard fan of *Prima Donna*, star of a soap opera penned by her self-loathing husband. Branagh assumes that role, and assumes it badly, during his drunk scene towards the end. I felt like hiding under the seat. Emma Thompson makes a better show as the group's ugly duckling, a lonely spinster finally transformed into a swan.

The script's barbs and banter are intermittently amusing. The moment matters turn serious, however, *Peter's Friends* collapses. These are shallow characters, pegs for gags; yet we are asked to shed tears for all kinds of misfortunes, from the cot death that blighted Hugh Laurie and Imelda Staunton's marriage

Sneakers (Empire, 12)
Peter's Friends (Empire, Plaza, 15)

to Fry's hidden secret, so laboriously revealed at the climax. Aside from Branagh's lazy performance, the cast pitch in with as much abandon as the material allows. Phyllida Law comes closest to etching a convincing character as Peter's long-serving housekeeper, bemoaning the passing years.

Nothing else new is opening commercially this week, although the celluloid reels still mount up at the National Film Theatre for the London Film Festival. Many films will never find British distributors: times, alas, are too hard and audiences too timid for a curiosity like Oleg Kovalov's *Garden of Scorpions*, to be considered viable. How can you market a self-styled "optical poem", entirely constructed from old Soviet footage of Moscow parades. Khrushchev in America, an alcoholism documentary, and an absurd fiction film of 1955, *The True Case of Corporal Kochetkov*? A former critic's first feature, *Garden of Scorpions* lays bare the sickness of Khrushchev's Russia with scorching wit: but it remains a film destined to float from one festival to the next, without a commercial berth.

Since audiences in times of recession are supposed to fight shy of downbeat material, what hope is there, too, for Jan Troell's *Il Capitano*? There is no doubting this film's quality, serving, as usual, as his own cameraman and editor, Troell generates subtle tension as he tracks two delinquents across landscapes skirted by mist or bathed in crisp northern light. The film, based on a recent case of teenagers arrested for murdering a family over a stolen bicycle, found success and controversy in Sweden; elsewhere, its disturbing portrait of callous youth seems destined to win critics' approval, but not much exposure.

Prospects look rosier for *Especially on Sunday*, a wide-ly enjoyable pormanteau film based on stories by Tonino Guerra, scriptwriter for the best, directed by Giuseppe Tornatore, comes first: a won-

derful tale of a barber bothered by a dog. The worst comes last. But nothing can tarnish the memory of Philippe Noiret embarrassed in church, extending a foot to push away the best canine actor since Rin-Tin-Tin.

Films do not need subtitles to experience distribution problems. Following the collapse of its production company, Nicolas Roeg's American venture *Cold Heaven* (showing next Wednesday at the Odeon West End) spent two years in limbo. Its emergence, however, is no cause for joy: Roeg turns Brian Moore's novel about an unfaithful wife into a silly metaphysical conundrum that leaves the spectator uninvolved and twiddling thumbs.

Mistress (Wednesday, Odeon West End), completed last year, deserves a friendlier reception. Where *The Player* revelled in the paranoia raging through a major Hollywood studio, this directorial debut by actor Barry Primus casts a sharp eye on the industry's has-beens and the seedy investors with girls to promote. The plot mechanism ultimately jars, although not before we savour the script's wry comedy and warm to characters like Martin Lan-

dau's desperate producer or Robert Wuhl's washed-up film-maker, clinging to a high-faloot project called *The Darkness and the Light*. Robert De Niro's Tribeca company co-produced; he also appears as one of the backers, eager to change the hero from a suicidal painter to a photographer of nudes.

Outside the festival, Londoners can savour "Tender is the North: Scandinavian Cinema 1916-92", an impressive season which runs until December 13 at the two Barbican Cinemas. *Il Capitano* appears tomorrow; Saturday brings a pocket version of *The Atonement of Gösta Berling*, which brought Greta Garbo to prominence in 1924, and this year's *Sofie*, the first film directed by Liv Ullmann. With 23 films by Ingemar Bergman, there are enough riches here to fight off any autumn blues.

Soloists turn team-players

Will the LSO's gamble with its new high-profile appointments pay off?

Today the London Symphony Orchestra begins its own kind of Trooping the Colour: a whistle-stop whizz round Britain, opening at its Barbican base and then visiting Manchester, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Birmingham. It is an annual ritual, sponsored by Shell, that has been going on for 16 years.

But in other respects the LSO is pioneering big changes in the British way of orchestral life. Two years ago, Clive Gillinson, its managing director — an admirably scathily operator by the noisy standards of orchestral bosses — presented his development plan for the LSO's future. It included a proposal that is common practice in many top foreign orchestras, but has yet to be effectively adopted here: the idea that the string principals — the players who sit nearest the conductor and sort out technical matters — should not be musicians who have come up through the ranks, but high-flying soloists, capable of playing concertos.

Such a plan required money, and lots of it. Musicians with flourishing solo careers will not commit themselves full-time to an orchestra. In theatrical parlance, the positions had to be double-cast.

In fact, money came quickly — a tribute to Gillinson's persuasive powers. The apparent ease with which the LSO and Barbican won approval contrasted with the tortuous progress made during the same period at the South Bank towards establishing a resident orchestra. Arts Council enhancement funding for the LSO was agreed in December 1990; four months later the City of London (which owns the Barbican) matched it pound for pound.

Today the LSO receives £2 million in subsidy, and most of the new soloists/principals are in place. Moray Welsh has joined as principal cellist, and Paul Silverthorne — best known as an exponent of fiendish new music — is now a principal viola. A Russian, Alexander Barantschik, was recruited as leader. Thomas Martin, the American double bass player, has joined and, last month, the young violinist Janice Graham was appointed

joint leader of the second fiddles.

The question now is: will all this expensive power-steering turn the LSO into a musical limousine? Cynics (and that means the players in all the rival orchestras) point out that although soloists may be superb players, they do not know much standard orchestral repertoire. Welsh admits this: "I played in the National Youth Orchestra, but that was 500 years ago. It is a pleasure and a shock to be back in a band, sigh-reading nearly everything the LSO plays."

"The first time I saw Moray with this orchestra", Silverthorne says, "we were playing *The Rite of Spring*. Three principal string players, including the leader, had never done it before."

But expert players can cope with even a monstrous technical challenge like that. A bigger question is whether soloists can be team players. "Until I came here", Silverthorne says, "I thought of a symphony orchestra as a hard slog, soulless, nothing you could put your personality into. Then I discovered that the LSO itself has an enormous personality. It thrives on accommodating players with big personalities."

Nevertheless, orchestral playing is all about cohesion: a thread of intuitive rapport must stretch back from Silverthorne to the last desk of violas. After 18 months, he thinks this is in place. "Believe it or not, in mid-concert I can actually change our bowing — if I feel we are not loud enough, say — and the players are with me all the way."

Welsh has also experienced the mysterious alchemy that enables 90 musicians to play as one. "One of my first rehearsals here was of Strauss's *Don Juan*. Now, I thought, 'does this conductor give an upbeat, or is it straight in?' There was no clue from him, and yet we started with perfect unanimity. That is when I understood how good it feels to play in an orchestra."

"What Moray does not realise", Martin says, "is that he has avoided playing in any of the orchestras that can't start *Don Juan* together."

RICHARD MORRISON

Europe through the pages

HARD on the heels of the Natural History Museum's "First Europeans" show, another august British institution has mounted an exhibition seemingly intent on persuading Euro-sceptics that, from Aberdeen to Athens, we all drink from the same well of culture.

The National Library of Scotland's new show, called "European Treasures: The Shared Inheritance", has been none-too-subtly timed to cover the period when European leaders descend upon Edinburgh to fix the political shape of the continent.

The six-month show, which opened yesterday, covers the birth of printing, the chronicles of travellers and the history of map-making. It includes the Gutenberg Bible of 1456, and the only known copy of the first book printed

in Scotland. The assembled maps date back to the Roman empire, and forward to the latest satellite photographs of the continent. Illuminated manuscripts include the 15th century *Hours of Marie de Rieux* and the *Iona Psalter*.

Among the curios is the last letter of Mary Queen of Scots, written just before her execution. Its European significance? Mary wrote it to her brother-in-law, the king of France. Even in her last hours, her command of French vocab would shame one or two present-day British politicians.

THE 1993 Year of Dance is being launched with an unusual offering: a Kiwi *Hamlet*. The Royal New Zealand Ballet will be at the Derngate in Northampton from November 24 to 28, performing a *Hamlet* that features medieval-style music played on traditional instruments by musicians who mingle with the action on stage.

The Year of Dance is set to bring many companies from around the world to the East Midlands, where the year's activities will be based.

Subsidence

THE aftermath of today's autumn statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer could be grim for the subsidised arts world, which is braced for standstill grants at

best. Nor will this week's visit to Britain by the Italian arts minister, Margherita Boniver, have lifted the gloom. Speaking at the Accademia Italiana on Monday, she confirmed that even Italy will soon be introducing a law to force its opera houses to raise 15 per cent of their budgets from private and commercial sponsors. If the target is not

met, subsidies will be slashed in proportion. British arts organisations, accusations, accusations, are to find as much as 30 per cent of their budgets from sponsors, may regard the Italian target as rather generous.

STEPHEN Sondheim's musical about the potting of presidents, *Assassins*, may be

as hard to get into as the Oval Office after a bomb-warning. Those who turn up at the Donmar Warehouse in Covent Garden after the show's weekend performances, however, will find some recompense. Jenny Eclair's *Mummy's Little Girl*, a scathing and sometimes hilarious portrait of the horrors that can happen to Miss Worthington after her mother has put her on the stage, starts a season of late-evening sessions there at 10pm tomorrow and Saturday. At the same time next week *The Hell Guides* — *At Last an Explanation*, with Ben Keaton and Paul B. Davies proving, let us hope, less wordy than their show's title.

Last chance...

AFTER staging *Arden of Feversham*, *A Woman Killed with Kindness* and *The Dybbuk*, Katie Mitchell is firmly established as one of our finest young directors.

But she will have to work hard to match the *House of Bernarda Alba* that she has just staged at the Gate in Notting Hill (071-229 0706). With Dinah Stabb exuding ire as the resident matriarch, Lorca's cramped hothouse of frustrated and desperate women can seldom have been evoked with such bleak intensity. The last performance is on Saturday.

ARTS BRIEFING



On show in Edinburgh: *The Hours of Marie de Rieux*

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
TONIGHT at 7.30pm
LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
MOZART Symphony No 34
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No 4
TCHAIKOVSKY Rocco Variations
PROKOFIEV Classical Symphony
HOWARD SHELLEY
cond/piano
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PICCADILLY THEATRE
DENMAN STREET, LONDON W1

PHOTOGRAPHY: Clive Davis finds pre-Revolutionary Russia vividly evoked in a book of striking images and reminiscences

Fragments from the Tsar's world

The expressions are, for the most part, cheerful and self-confident. Army officers strike debonair poses, worthy members of the gentry dine alfresco, grizzled artisans stare self-consciously into the camera's eye, as if impatient to get back to work. Few faces give any hint of the cataclysm in store.

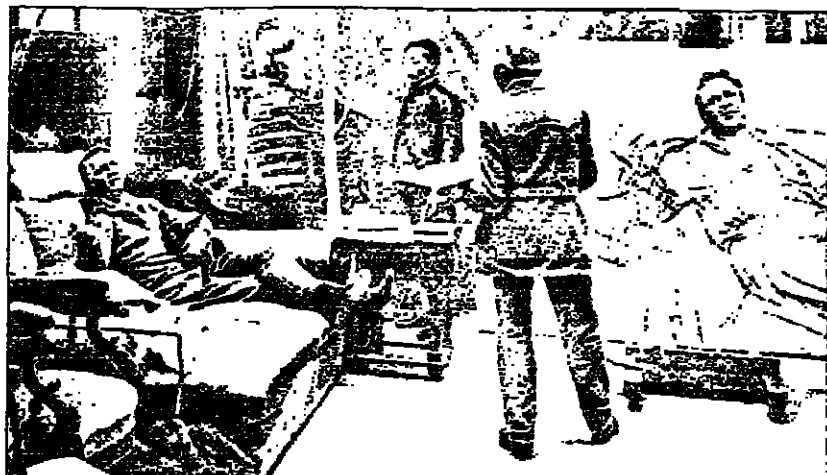
These images, fragments of a distant civilisation, are gathered together in *Before The Revolution*, a collection of more than 200 photographs of Russia and its empire under the last Tsar, Nicholas II. Assembled by Tatiana Browning, the pictures range from innocent mementoes of family holidays to harrowing photographs — taken by the translator Constance Garnet — of famine in central Russia in the 1890s.

On the first page Stanislavsky sits among the audience at a gala in the Moscow Art Theatre. On another, Countess Tolstoy is seen peering through the window of the railway station where her husband lies dying. "What these photographs evoke is Atlantis," writes Kyril FitzLyon, the author of the extended essay that accompanies the pictures. "Suddenly,

totally and irrevocably, perhaps undeservedly (though not inexplicably), the world they immortalise suddenly sank and disappeared from view — its culture vigorous and intact."

First published 15 years ago, at a time when Brezhnev and his acolytes seemed safe for ever in their motorcades and dachas, the book has now been re-issued (Penguin, £9.99). When the Russian version of FitzLyon's text first appeared a decade ago, it had to be smuggled into the Soviet Union. Now it is freely available in bookshops and libraries.

FitzLyon himself is a survivor of the Tsarist era, a member of one of Russia's most distinguished families, the Zinoviefes (no relation, he often has to point out, to the Bolshevik of the same name). As a child he witnessed the first days of the 1917 revolution in St Petersburg, before his parents took him



Ilya Repin paints the portrait of the great Kazan-born bass singer Pyotr Chaliapin, who at that time (1914) was at the height of his fame

into exile in Estonia. By 1920 the family had settled in Britain, with few illusions about returning home.

A translator of works by Dostoevsky, among others, FitzLyon remains a prominent figure in London's émigré community. He made his first return trip to Russia a decade ago, when the greeting from the general population was unexpectedly warm: "People regarded me more or less as an ancient monument," he recalls. Last year he and his wife went back to Moscow to take part in a Yeltsin-sponsored convention of émigrés — a so-called "Congress of Compatriots". The day after they arrived they found themselves in the midst of the abortive coup, an experience which, in a sense, brought FitzLyon's life full circle.

On his most recent trip this summer, he visited one of the old family estates near St Petersburg. He can remember the day he

left it, more than 70 years ago. It covers some 30,000 acres, but its buildings have fallen into disrepair, and a nuclear power station now stands nearby, too close for comfort. FitzLyon was not tempted to go back to take charge of the family legacy.

In his essay he reflects on the damage that communism and "socialist realism" inflicted on the arts. Russia, he argues, was passing through a profoundly creative phase in the years before 1917. Nevertheless, he warns against an unrealistic longing for an imaginary golden age. "The revolution caused not just a break with the past but a kind of stoppage. That was a great tragedy. What worries me now is that there is an excessive pride in the achievements of the past."

"Russians have this defect, I think of considering that culture is something that stopped in 1917. In the theatre, for instance, I found that actors and actresses are called to account if they don't do things according to Stanislavsky's ideas. The result is that they are trying to keep their arts in aspic. That kind of nostalgia is dangerous in terms of culture, just as it is in politics."

Lifetime under a Cheever

FICTION: John Cheever lives on — at least in his own family. Now his son Benjamin has written a novel that reads like fact, and is intended to, Joe Joseph discovers

Benjamin Cheever lives so deeply in the big, dark shadow of his father, John, that you fully expect him to blink awkwardly each time he steps into sunlight. Along with the rest of the Cheever family, Benjamin has turned the lionised American novelist into a cottage industry. In the decade since he died, John Cheever's relatives have all but set up a thriving souvenir stall at his shrine.

In just the past three years, Benjamin has brought out a collection of his father's letters and supervised publication of his journals. Between them these did for Cheever's upstanding, suburban New England reputation what spilt paint-stripper does to the sheen of French polish.

Cheever was a hard-drinking womaniser, although his public image was still, in his son's words, that of "a courtly man who lived in an antique farmhouse and raised bird dogs". But the man who boasted that his epitaph should read "Here lies John Cheever/He never disappointed a hostess/Or took it up the ass" and who was known as the "Chekhov" of the suburbs valued a cherry orchard more as a spot for a homosexual tryst than a source of literary inspiration.

Alongside these came two memoirs from Cheever's daughter, Susan. *Home Before Dark* was an unvarnished catalogue of life with the man behind the benign public image. In *Treetops* she told how her father mistreated her mother.

Now Benjamin has written a novel, his first. It does not merely make a discreet nod to his father's influence. It makes such a hullabaloo about it that you would need to be under heavy sedation not to spot the link.

Subtly called *The Plagiarist*, the book is about the angst-ridden writer son of a famous, testy, egotistical, bisexual and alcoholic American man of letters. Not so much a case of the sun also rises, as the son also writes. And naturally the young writer, in both fact and fiction, is anxious about whether others see him as more than just his father's son, whether he is worth anything in his own right.

Is *The Plagiarist*, which pivots gracefully on a Cheever parody written by the fictional son, yet another exploration of the familiar family identity crisis tricked out for the Cheever souvenir stall? Or is it a fully formed novel capable of independent life outside the Cheever incubator, a novel in which Benjamin just happened to use his own life as a literary quarry? Is it the real turtle soup or merely the mock?

"When I sit down to write, he's the first thing I think about," Benjamin says about John. "Someone once asked me if I would ever write a book in which he wasn't a central character and I said I hoped not, and that I hoped that I would frighten my own children enough that I would be in their minds for ever. He was a very powerful personality. He could be wonderful. He could be terrible. If he wanted to be cruel, he was good at it."

Benjamin seems partly obsessed by his father, partly just baffled about where his father's life ends and his own begins. In *The Plagiarist*, the young hero is told bluntly by his psychoanalyst that "A great many people associate with you because of your father."

their interest in your father. I wouldn't be candid if I didn't admit that part of my interest in you relates to your father."

If *The Plagiarist* strikes you as some sort of very public self-analysis, apparently it is. Benjamin sees writing as "some kind of therapy". He glories in it. "The reason I want to write is I want to understand my life. I think paternity is a problem. You have this person, he's bigger than you, he's sleeping with your mother, you're a threat to each other."

This is not the sort of anguish that necessarily keeps the rest of us up at nights, but it clearly gnaws at Benjamin. He thinks of himself as a piece of tracing paper that lies over his famous father's life, lacking any texture of his own. He even moans that "I write as a violation of copyright", a sentiment echoed verbatim by *The Plagiarist*'s hero.

"Once I had a story turned down by the *New Yorker*," Benjamin says. "The editor wrote to me and said it was good but it read like imitation



Daddy dearest: Benjamin Cheever (left) writes as "a violation of copyright" held by his father John (above)

Cheever. I told him, what you don't understand is that I am an imitation of Cheever."

When you are discussing a novel about a writer's relationship with a famous literary pa with the book's author, then paternity in general, and John Cheever in particular, are bound to dominate the chat. But after talking to Benjamin you would not be too surprised if he also bent the ears of supermarket check-out assistants with his father-and-son Angst.

And Benjamin is unrepentant

about it. His father "was a stirring example". Also, "he really did believe that anything anybody did that wasn't writing was a little bit ridiculous". What about those who accuse Benjamin of milking his dad's life? "There are people who say that I and my family are entirely profit-motivated, that we are shameless. But you have to write about what's important to you. This is what matters to me."

What's next, Benjamin? "I have another book that I'll be done with by the end of the year. It's about

paternity. It's about a father and two children. It's about free will. It's based on the relationship with my father, and with my children. Um, I think we get the picture."

Benjamin Cheever shows in *The Plagiarist* that he has much to say and can say it with wit. For him to write one novel that is fully mortgaged to his father's memory may be unfortunate. To write two might seem like carelessness.

● *The Plagiarist* is published by Hamish Hamilton next Thursday (£9.99).

TELEVISION REVIEW

Translating the unspeakable

Primo Levi's suicide five years ago was a terrible reminder that the ordeal of those who survived the Nazi death camps did not end with their liberation. Last night's BBC 2 documentary, *Primo Levi: The Memory of the Offence*, included moving tributes to the great Italian writer by his fellow survivors from Auschwitz. They felt that Levi's books had helped them to accept their own incomprehensible deliverance. His death had deprived them of a uniquely articulate translator into words of their unspeakable experiences. Their great fear is of oblivion descending upon the memory of the murdered millions.

A satisfying explanation of Levi's own death did not, however, emerge from the programme. As one critic pointed out, one should always be careful about assigning reasons for any suicide, and especially in the case of Levi. The memory of Auschwitz overshadowed his death, as it had his life; but we do not know how and why he decided to lay down his burden of testimony.

Primo Levi was forced to endure the consequences of the Nazi cult of death. He spent most of his literary life — he also had an unliterary one, which mattered greatly to him — reflecting on its meaning. Where most of us think of death in a personal way, Levi also lived with death as genocide, as the extinction of his people. But he also had the same domestic worries as other people, and in this programme the critic Paul Bailey was right to try to dissipate the melodramatic atmosphere in which Levi's suicide has been seen.

His life had indeed an

extraordinary symbolism: slave labour in the camp known as Auschwitz III, or Monowitz, which produced synthetic rubber for the chemical conglomerate I.G. Farben; and then voluntary pursuit of a career in Turin as an industrial chemist.

But Levi's death was not symbolic of anything. The late J.P. Stern pointed out that it is a mistake, however well-meaning, to dignify the gassing and cremation of European Jewry at Auschwitz as a "Holocaust", a sacrifice-offering: who was sacrificing what to whom? It is equally wrong to romanticise Levi's suicide as a general indictment of society's indifference to the Nazi crimes.

Of course such indifference exists, worst of all among those who have most to atone for. A German industrialist's wife, sitting next to Levi at dinner, asked him where he had learnt his excellent German. "To be honest, it was in Auschwitz," he replied. She turned away and did not address another word to him. And yet the truth remains: suicide is no answer to such moral cretinism. Levi's greatness derives from his life and work, not his creeping despair and lonely death.

One final point: this film about Levi included a great deal of distressing material about Auschwitz. The BBC ought to make it absolutely clear when they intend to broadcast such footage, especially before the "watershed" of 9pm. It is now common practice to warn viewers of news bulletins before they are shown atrocities. The same rule should apply to documentaries.

DANIEL JOHNSON

Wealth of Nations



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DT08

Distinctive whatever the disguise

DANCE: John Percival on a lively and inventive young Leeds-based company

One thing remains constant in the work of Phoenix Dance Company through all changes of director, repertoire and dancers: a distinctively colloquial style that communicates strongly and directly with excited young audiences. Although there are obvious comparisons with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, I imagine that the Phoenix spirit comes not so much from most of them being black as from the origins of the company and many of the dancers in Leeds, where they had to establish themselves by grabbing people's attention.

Four works make up the

programme they brought to Sadler's Wells. Diverse as they are, a similar spirit underlies the performing style in each. Even when the men disguise themselves in middle-class, middle-aged suits for Aletta Collins's *Gang of Five*, they keep their cocky swagger. The contrast is the point.

In Philip Taylor's *Sacred Space*, the mood shifts to a reverent solemnity, full of kneeling and prostrations, to Arvo Part's slow, hushed music, until a final section suddenly explodes with energy. But for all the sanctimonious manner, the dancers project essentially the sub-plot of themselves as workaday people paying homage to their calling.

Two American choreographers, Daniel Shapiro and Joanne Smith, made *Family*, a work about home, sweet and sour home. A large armchair serves as the symbolic focal point of the action and a useful prop for dancers to roll in, balance on, and jump over or from. Here the down-to-earth Phoenix manner avoids the winsome cuteness that could so easily have affected these



Swagger: Phoenix Dance Company in *Gang of Five*

ingenious, jokey manoeuvres. Only in Bebe Miller's *Spartan Reels* does dance appear to have taken first place over idea. This is a more demanding assignment for the dancers, but one to which they bring the same irrepressible confidence of communicating with their audience. There is a running theme of relationships — men with women, individuals with groups — but

basically it is the liveliness and invention of the movement that make this the evening's most satisfying choreography. Like two of the other works, it is based on an anthology of recorded music: this time mixing Greek folk music with its popular modern styles. Several of the dancers deserve credit for individual roles, but the cast list prevents this. Team spirit is fine but can go too far.

FRINGE THEATRE

Not for publication

THE latest offering from this tiny Chalk Farm basement is a funny, rueful and ultimately disturbing Serbian comedy that combines cautious optimism at the collapse of old tyrannies with a shrugging uncertainty about the future.

Teya, a publisher, is confronted in his office by Luke, the son of pest endemic to the profession: a little man loaded with lovingly bound manuscripts. Luke is not, however, yet another budding author but a former secret policeman. The books contain the deeds and sayings of the publisher himself.

The play opened in Belgrade in 1990, presumably before the bloody break-up of Yugoslavia reached its full, senseless barbarity, but its final note is one of warning. The little policeman, ousted by the new regime and now a taxi driver, is off to hospital with an illness which, we surmise, will kill him. His final gift to his ex-subject is a drama. The puzzled Teya denies having written the drama: Luke produces a tape recorder which now contains their whole conversation. Teya settles down to transcribe it as the darkening

The Professional Offstage Downstairs

stage flickers with a red glow and gun fire is heard. "After this the end," he comments cryptically.

The author, Dusan Kovacevic, is not afraid to quote other works and writers — he mentions Vaclav Havel and fleetingly echoes Kafka in his wry, fatalistic laughter. The comparison is beautifully underlined in Peter Kraze's production by George Irving as Teya: harassed, exacerbated, bullying and sensitive.

Lovely supporting performances come from Richard Tate (Luke), Ilona Linthwaite (a long suffering secretary) and Justine Butcher (a frenzied would-be author). The translation by an Arizona-based Yugoslav exile, Bob Djurdjevic, has a few Americanisms, but works compellingly. The play's English language premiere was at San Francisco last July, though the author was refused entry by the American government.

MARTIN HOYLE

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مكتبة الأصل

World boxing champion seeks respect

Holyfield counts on kudos rather than cash for motivation

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAS VEGAS

EVANDER Holyfield is the richest athlete in the world, but he will never find the recognition he values more than his wealth as long as Mike Tyson remains the people's champion. Holyfield will have earned \$100 million after his defence against Riddick Bowe here on Friday, which is about double Tyson's earnings.

It does not matter that Holyfield has knocked out eight heavyweights who were considered good enough opponents for Tyson (one of them, James Tillis, actually went the distance with him). Holyfield is simply still a blown-up cruiserweight in the eyes of the public, a man who made his money and reputation by beating a fat man, two old men and a former drug addict.

That is why the undisputed world champion wants to beat "a genuine contender" like Bowe. "If I lose this one, I'm a bum," Holyfield said. "That's what people will say. People will sneer and say I was never a heavyweight."

"I've already got more money than I could ever spend. I don't really fight for money any more. That's why I told my promoters to get me Bowe and why I want Lennox Lewis next. They are the top guys around. If I lose to them there's no tomorrow."

Lou Duva, Holyfield's 71-year-old trainer, said: "They said he fought a fat man when he won the title from James 'Buster' Douglas, then they said he beat two old men, George Foreman and Larry Holmes. Bert Cooper did not even deserve a shot. But you can't blame Evander for Douglas's condition."

"The whole world wanted him to fight Foreman. Cooper was a late replacement when

Tyson pulled out. The only defence they can criticise is against Holmes. That wasn't a great fight, but it whipped up Evander for this one. The young bulls are out there and this is a chance to show what a fighter he is."

Holyfield is desperate to please. Far from laying down the law, as other champions would, he has been trying to justify himself. Instead of downgrading his opponent, as is customary in pre-fight hype, Holyfield praises Bowe.

"I feel good about this fight because it gives me the opportunity to show the people what I'm made of," Holyfield said. "This fight is big because people realise this guy stands a chance to win. For that reason, if I go in and do what I am capable of, maybe the fans will finally believe in me."

"Bowe is young, his record is good (31-0) and he has a good background. He is a good technician with a good jab. To offset that my job will have to be faster than his. I will have to throw more punches than he does."



Holyfield: eager to please

Duva, whose volatility would surprise other 71-year-olds, almost pleads for attention. "People should be convinced after he beats Bowe," Duva said. "I always felt that the time is going to come when the fans completely accept him. Even the negative people have to realise this is a good guy in the ring and out of the ring."

"He is not spectacular in the ring or out of it. He is not a glamorous guy. He doesn't mug old ladies. He doesn't bang up cars. What he does is speak to churches and schools and is particular about his image. He wants to show the fans what it takes to be a great champion."

What hurts Holyfield particularly is the lack of approval for hard work. When he was a child in a housing project in Atlanta, his mother, Annie, who worked as a cook in a hotel, told him to work hard and please everybody. Holyfield recalls his mother's words to a local boxing coach when he was in the fourth grade: "My mama told him: 'If he do wrong, you tear his behind up and then tell me and I'll tear his behind up again.'"

When he was 19 and working at the local airport refuelling aircraft, he saw the pay cheque of a man who had been working there for 15 years. "I was shocked," Holyfield said, "because I thought if you work hard you get ahead."

Holyfield quit and decided to go into boxing. He would not have believed at that distant Atlanta airport that 11 years, \$100 million, a 104-acre ranch and two luxurious homes (for his mother and his divorced wife, Paulette) later, he would be fighting to get ahead.



Front five: Beck, Staley, Alty, Tony Keyes, the coach, and Clark look forward to Accrington Stanley's return to the big time

Accrington Stanley find new lease of life

BY PETER BALL



A NAME from the days when everybody gathered around the wireless at 5pm on winter Saturdays for *Sports Report* reappears in the FA Cup — and on the pools coupons — this week. Accrington Stanley will be in the first round of the Cup for the first time in 30 years when they entertain Gateshead, another name from the era of the third division north.

But if the names are the same, the clubs are different. Gateshead are the former Northern League side, North Shields, transposed to the south bank of the Tyne. Stanley were reformed in 1968, less a phoenix rising from the ashes of the former club than a new venture in old clothes.

Accrington are the most mourned of former League clubs, and their departure in 1962 — when they resigned in the face of mounting, but by today's standards minuscule, debts — is still a sore point locally. It is also shrouded in some mystery, which is unlikely to be resolved since the death of the main culprit in local demography: Alan Hardaker, the then Football League secretary, who rejected their attempt to withdraw their resignation after a furious public protest meeting; and Bob Lord, the chairman of nearby Burnley, who was

called in to help but advised liquidation.

In fact, Stanley staggered on for a year in the Lancashire Combination before finally dying. Accrington Stanley 1968 Ltd is the second attempt to revive senior football in Accrington. Unlike Accrington FC, which played on at Peel Park with little success until 1967, it started from small beginnings at a new ground.

Since then progress has been steady. In 1975, the driving force behind the present club, John Alty, an accountant, then a Burnley season-ticket holder, responded to the sight of Wimbledon knocking the first division club out of the Cup by replying to an advertisement for businessmen to join the committee.

"I decided I wanted a bit more involvement than just being a season-ticket holder," Alty said. "Dave Bassett cost me a lot of money."

From a wooden shack in 1975, the club now has a stand, a thriving social club and a new pitch at the Crown Ground. Peel Park passed to the local council, and vandals set fire to the old stand, leaving no trace of its former occupants.

The glamour of the name persuaded Phil Staley, who lives near Macclesfield and works in Liverpool, to move from Droylsden, another HFS Loans League side whom he had taken to promotion to the premier division, to become manager.

Now he is enjoying similar success with Accrington, winning promotion to the HFS

premier division in 1991. They have got the league's leading scorer in Paul Beck, once a Burnley apprentice, now a computer operator for Hyndburn council and one of only two locals in the side.

The other local is the right back, Martin Clark, like Beck a former League apprentice, an Accrington postman. Last Saturday he got up at 4am to do his round before the game at Frickley, and unless his post office supervisor takes pity on him, he will do that before the biggest game of his career.

Clark may not be on his rounds much longer. Cambridge have been watching him, even though he is one of only two Accrington players not to have scored this season, an unlikely record for an Alan Shearer lookalike.

SPORTS LETTERS

English clubs deserve chance

From Mr Simon Hickmott
Sir, How pleasing it was to see Swansea beat Australia (report, November 5), not for revenge of the World Cup final defeat of England, but as a sign of the advances that Welsh rugby union has made this season.

The changes in the laws seem to have given the Heineken league a new lease of life, with the top sides playing open running rugby resulting in scorlines more associated with a cricket scoreboard.

Swansea and Llanelli, having been at or near the top of Welsh rugby for the past few years, have amassed 299 and 389 points respectively in only nine games.

Neath are again near the top after a disappointing last season, and Cardiff seem reborn and full of fire after a few years which could only be called dismal.

Australia have to face all these sides in their present tour, as well as Wales B and the full Wales side, by which time the standard of Welsh

rugby should be shown to have improved greatly.

Unfortunately, English club rugby doesn't test itself against international opposition. Touring sides always play England, Ireland B and divisional sides.

Why play divisional sides which are thrown together for one month in a season and rarely perform to their true potential?

Instead given the clubs, Harlequins, Bath, Northampton, Orell and Leicester to name a few, the chance to play international sides, then they can judge their ability against world-class opposition.

Bath, for instance, perform to what seem to be very high standards, but if you play the same opposition month in, month out, how can you judge your standards in the field of world rugby?

Yours sincerely,
SIMON HICKMOTT,
Oakdene,
Greyfield Road,
High Littleton,
nr Bristol,
Avon.

Yachts becalmed

From Mr Philip Lawrence
Sir, Much of the current debate about the future of Olympic yachting overlooks the fact that the key ingredient for thrilling sailing is wind, and plenty of it.

Yachting has no chance of meeting the IOC requirement "to pay its way" unless it can produce exciting television images. This can only be achieved if the yachting is held at a breezy venue; yachting racing in light winds rates alongside washing paint dry as a television spectacle.

The yachting in Barcelona was highly competitive and well organised, but despite a large investment in television

coverage, the gentle breezes produced dull pictures which were accordingly relegated to late-night slots.

Many Olympic sailors are disappointed that another light wind venue, Savannah, has been chosen for the 1996 Olympic regatta. Without a decent breeze to race in, the present tinkering with race formats, courses and types of boat will become irrelevant, and Olympic yachting will remain becalmed in the backwaters of televised sport.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP LAWRENCE,
Farnley Mead,
Lymington,
Hampshire.

Failure of law

From Dr Gerald Michael
Sir, It was good that the two European Cup matches between Rangers and Leeds passed without major incident. However, this occurred largely because away supporters were banned from their matches.

To prevent violence by not allowing law-abiding football fans to see their teams play away in an important competition seems to be a complete surrender to hooliganism.

It appears that the forces of law and order do not under-

Problems for drug campaign

From Mrs Maureen Watson
Sir, While some may think it laudable to crusade for the rights of sportspeople who have been taking dexamfetamine in training, I wonder whether those people deserve the support.

In this country it is quite clear that it is the responsibility of the athlete to check any medication not included on either the IOC's banned list or on its allowed list with their governing body or the Sports Council before taking it.

Furthermore, if tested for drugs, they must put down on the drug-test form any medication taken in the previous three days.

If these requirements have

not been fulfilled, one is tempted to ask why they are failing to declare a substance which is not licensed in this country and which is known to increase muscle mass in animals.

It is very hard on those campaigning against drug abuse, and on those sports that are still clean, to see the apparent ease with which some are "getting away with it".

Yours faithfully,
MAUREEN WATSON
(President, International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations),
The Beeches,
179 East Dulwich Grove,
SE22.

Shining example

From the Headmaster of Loretto School
Sir, Christopher Dighton's Schools Sport article (November 7) must have come as a great encouragement to young people suffering from cancer, as indeed to their families.

It should be of further encouragement to them and to their schools to know that Ian Purvis battled through his cancer to achieve sufficient GCSE passes for entrance to the Loretto sixth form.

Thereafter, in addition to his successive British national schools rugby five championship titles in 1991 and 1992, Ian achieved positions of responsibility as a school prefect and of deep respect as chapel clerk as a result of which he was awarded one of Loretto's Lord Toppings awards for outstanding leadership and service.

Ian is now continuing to make his mark as an assistant

tutor in St Mary's School, Melrose, before taking up a well-earned place at college, possibly to train as a schoolmaster.

Such a record of courageous triumph over adversity has been a magnificent example and encouragement to all who have come into contact with Ian as his colleagues and as his teachers.

Whither academic league tables when there are young men of this all-round calibre to be educated?

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN W. DRUMMOND,
Headmaster,
Loretto School,
Musselburgh,
Midlothian.

Woman's right

From the General Secretary of the British Universities Sports Federation
Sir, Your article on the Oxford University basketball player, Jodi Evans (front page, November 11), needs clarification.

This federation has precluded Ms Evans from taking part in the national men's championship and representative tournament. We organise identical tournaments for women, whose finals take place at the same venue and same time as the men's, and Ms Evans is obviously eligible to take part in the women's events.

Yours faithfully,
PETER RHODES,
General Secretary,
British Universities Sports Federation,
11 Alcock Street,
Birmingham 9.

Spectators need value

From Mr T. Ford
Sir, I note, with a little disappointment, that South Africa has withdrawn its bid to hold the next cricket World Cup (report, November 5), and hope that by 1999 their situation will have improved sufficiently.

I also note that it seems most likely the tournament will now be held in England (although this is far from certain for the moment). Should this happen, can we spectators be considered in any equation?

I paid no more than £11 for admission to any of England's World Cup games in Australia this year, including the semi-final and the final. The facilities were first-class. Can we be assured of similar value or will prices have to remain at this summer's absurd levels, around three times as much?

I would expect the authorities to point out, in reply, the comparative size of English grounds and for this reason suggest that, if they do succeed with their bid to host the tournament, they should give priority to arranging for the final to be held at Wembley Stadium, with other major games also sited at the larger football grounds. I understand from the Australians' experience that construction of a decent, flat wicket is not technically difficult on a football field.

Can you imagine the sight of an England victory in front of 80,000 spectators?

Yours faithfully,
TIM FORD,
Apple Acre,
Church Lane,
Claxton,
Norwich,
Norfolk.

Pyjama names

From Mr Alan Butterworth
Sir, Further to the search for cricketing names (Sports Letters, October 29, November 5) may I offer:

Derbyshire Fluorite, Gloucestershire Tailors, Hampshire Hamsters, Lancashire Horpots, Leicestershire Piggotts, Northants, a Rate of Notts, Somerset, Surrealists and Sussex Pistols.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BUTTERWORTH,
13 Winchester Road,
Oxford.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wales await Devereux ruling

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WALES will anxiously await the outcome of the appearance by John Devereux, the Welsh three-quarter, at a disciplinary hearing today. A possible three-match ban after his dismissal against Ryedale York last weekend would rule a third Wales player out of the game with England at Swansea on November 27.

Jonathan Davies, the Welsh captain, entered hospital yesterday for a groin operation. Barry Williams, the Cardiff forward, is also out with injury.

Worries about the fitness of Kevin Ellis have receded. The Warrington player broke two ribs in the league defeat by Sheffield a fortnight ago, but intends playing for Warrington at Halifax five days before the international, in which he is expected to partner Jonathan Griffiths, of St Helens, at half back.

With only 22 players from whom to select, the loss of Davies is a serious blow to Wales. The England squad, to be announced next Tuesday, will comprise most of those who appeared in last month's

Great Britain World Cup final side.

The Sports Council is considering proposals on youth rugby put forward at a meeting with Rugby Football League (RFL) officials this week to unify the game's professional and amateur factions. They include a possible new single structure at both playing and administrative level.

The RFL denies that it is seeking to destroy the British

Amateur Rugby League Association. Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said: "We are only interested in examining the weaknesses that must exist in our youth system that prevent us from competing successfully with other countries. A new way has to be found."

Robert Turner, Warrington's former Great Britain Under-21 utility back, who has already missed a large part of the season because of injury, is to undergo a knee cartilage operation tomorrow that will keep him on the sidelines for another month.

The RFL has confirmed that Warrington's home Regal Trophy second-round tie against Bradford Northern will be televised live on BBC on December 5.

David Toplis, the Wakefield Trinity coach, said yesterday that Mark Conway, the club's half back, had turned down moves to Hull and Featherstone Rovers on a month's loan. Toplis is hoping that Paul Round will return from injury against Warrington on Sunday.



Devereux: ban possible

MOTOR RALLYING

RAC event is likely to decide title

Lloret de Mar, Spain: Carlos Sainz, of Spain, held off a determined attack by the Finn, Juha Kankkunen, to win the Catalonia Rally yesterday and throw the world championship wide open with one event remaining — the RAC Rally later this month.

The Spaniard, driving a Toyota Celica, finished the 29 stages 36 seconds ahead of Kankkunen in his Lancia. Sainz, world champion in 1990, now has 124 points, two ahead of Kankkunen, the world champion, and three clear of the previous leader, Didier Auriol, of France.

Auriol, who lost more than an hour on Tuesday when he ploughed off the road during a gravel stage, staged a furious comeback to win all of yesterday's five stages.

RESULTS: 1, C Sainz (Sp), Toyota Celica, 6hr 21min 13sec; 2, J Kankkunen (Fin), Lancia Delta, 6hr 25min 3.4; 3, A Auriol (Fr), Lancia 126cc; 4, A Pons (It), Lancia; 5, S Sainz (Sp), Toyota Celica, 6hr 25min 5.4; 6, J Pons (Sp), Lancia Delta, 6hr 25min 5.4.

NETBALL

England must combat zonal marking system

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

ENGLAND face netball's version of mission impossible when they meet New Zealand in the second of a three-match international series at Manchester's G-Mex centre tonight.

Having seen her side lose 62-34 to the Kiwis at Wembley Arena on Saturday, Liz Broomhead knows what is required. "We need to twinkle," the England coach said. "We simply did not have enough stars shining for us at Wembley."

While some subscribe to the theory that netballers are born and not made, no one would argue that money aids their development. Money enables New Zealand's squad to benefit from the latest advances in sports science, not to mention being compensated for time taken off work in order to train and travel for their country. The majority of the squad have had at least 12 weeks'

leave of absence from their jobs this year in order to fulfil netball commitments.

New Zealand also holds women's sport in high esteem — a mood reflected by huge viewing figures for regular doses of televised netball on the other side of the world.

Liz Nicholl, the chief executive of the All England Netball Association, hopes that the British perception of the sport will shift in the same direction by 1995 when England hosts the world championships.

More immediately, England must come to terms with New Zealand's zonal marking. "Instead of man-marking they mark space and do the job zonally," Nicholl said. "That made it very difficult for us. And for very tall women — more than half the New Zealand team is around six foot — they are as graceful and slim as gazelles. They are lovely to watch."

BBC1

- 6.00 *Celebs* (25096) 6.30 *Breakfast News* (88236298)
9.05 *Kidney*. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (25096) 9.45 *Rose King*. Game show live from the BBC Good Food Show at the NEC in Birmingham. The guest is chef Ken Hom (88385657)
10.00 *News*, regional news and weather (7827164) 10.05 *Playdays*. Includes a visit to Point of Ayr on the Isle of Man (5124747)
10.30 *Good Morning*... with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series hosted by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (5124747)
12.15 *Pebble Mill*. Alan Titchmarsh is joined by *Coronation Street* starlet Patricia Richardson and Thelma Barlow. Music is provided by the Ian Palmer Jazz Quintet (5) (9300473) 12.55 *Regional News* and weather (7827164)
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. (Celebs) Weather (73560) 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Celebs) (5) (4286164) 1.50 *Golf for Gold*. General knowledge quiz game with European contestants. The question-master is the erudite Henry Kelly (5) (4286164)
2.15 *Film Promises To Keep* (1985) starring Robert Mitchum and Claire Bloom. Emotional TV movie about a rancher's attempts at reconciliation with his estranged family, facing two generations of hostility and unhappiness. Directed by Noel Black (Celebs) (841639)
3.45 *Cartoon* (770763) 3.50 *Puppydog Tales*. The adventures of four dogs, narrated by Victoria Wood (5) (3675678) 3.55 *Noddy* (5) (427454) 4.10 *Star Pets*. Peter Simon continues his search for the Star Pet of 1992 (5) (8851015) 4.15 *Get Your Own Back*. Game show presented by Dave Benson Phillips (5) (4664034) 4.35 *Kevin and Co.* Episodes one of a new six-part comedy drama series. (Celebs) (5) (870579)
4.55 *Newsround* (9006276) 5.05 *Blue Peter*. Includes the announcement of the subject of *Blue Peter's* Christmas Appeal. (Celebs) (5) (8181589)
5.35 *Neighbours* (5) (4286164) 5.40 *Inside Out*. Inside Out 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with John Humphrys and Andrew Harvey. (Celebs) Weather (847)
6.30 *Regional News* (259) 6.40 *Inside Out*. Inside Out 7.00 *Top of the Pops* presented by Frank Frinton (5) (8831)
7.30 *Eastenders*. (Celebs) (5) (183)
8.00 *Living Dangerously: Man-Eater* — to Be or Not to Be? The first of a six-part series exploring the impact of human activity on wildlife. This programme shows the private life of a male tiger living in the jungles of Nepal and why it makes occasional forays into the villages and Himalayan foothills. Narrated by Ian McShane. (Celebs) (5) (825)
8.30 *Waiting For God*. Last in the Michael Apted series starring Stephanie Cole and Graham Crowden as geriatric siblings living in a retirement home. (Celebs) (5) (8386)
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (Celebs) Regional news and weather (8850)
9.30 *Crimewatch UK* presented by Nick Rees and Sue Cook. Includes appeals for help in finding the killer of a prostitute found dead in deep undergrowth in North Yorkshire and the perpetrators of an armed attack on a security guard as he made a delivery in Lambourn. (Celebs) (916657)
10.15 *One Foot in the Grave*. While decorating Victor and Margaret see Richard Wilson and Annette Crosbie (5) (881307) Northern Ireland: Spotlight
10.45 *Question Time* presented by Peter Sissons. The panel is Elizabeth Symons, general secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and MPs Neil Kinnock and Kenneth Clarke (5) (1102) Northern Ireland: One Foot in the Grave 11.15 *Question Time*
11.45 *Crimewatch UK Update* (814095)
11.55 *Law and Order*. Crime series from the United States, starring George Dzundza and Christopher Noth (5) (231164) Northern Ireland 12.15am-12.25am *Crimewatch UK Update*
12.00am *Weather* (8031597)



Subversives: Graham Crowden, Stephanie Cole (8.30pm)

BBC2

- 8.00 *Breakfast News* (4881541) 8.15 *Westminster* (8842086)
9.00 *Daytime on Two*. Educational programmes
9.00 *News* and weather (9106747) followed by *You and Me* (5) (7032397) 2.15 *Advice Shop*. Welfare rights magazine (319183)
3.00 *News* (Celebs) and weather (9484454) followed by *Westminster* 3.15 *Live* introduced by Ian Macpherson and John Cole (7978947) 3.30 *News*, regional news and weather (5) (814)
4.00 *Calderhead*. Game for wordsmiths (5) (814)
4.30 *Behind the Headlines*. Controversial issues in the news discussed by MPs David Mellor and Tony Banks (116)
5.00 *From the Edge*. Series from the BBC's disability programmes unit featuring reports on the arts, politics and news (9093)
5.30 *Food and Drink*. Includes a Russian family visiting their first British supermarket and a test of pub lemonade (5) (5) (678)
6.00 *Film: Viva Max!* (1989) starring Peter Ustinov. Sprightly comedy about a derelict Mexican gangster who rescues the Alamo 133 years after the Texas conquest. Directed by John Dahl (24367)
7.30 *First Sight: Coming Clean*. A report on the controversy surrounding the testing of a new "wonder fuel" from Venezuela at Rotherham power station in Kent (725) Northern Ireland: Route 92: Wales: Dad's Army: East: Matter of Fact: Midlands: Midlands Report: North: North-east and North-west: Close Up North: South: Southern Eye: South-west: Close Up West: Close Up West
8.00 *The Essential History of Europe*. A new series on the 12 member states of the EC begins with Denmark and presents an offbeat portrait of the reluctant Europeans (5) (7893)
8.30 *Top Gear*. Alfa Romeo's new 155 is road tested by Jeremy Clarkson and there is a visit to the Isle of Man TT races (5) (8628)
9.00 *Absolutely Fabulous*.
● *CHOICE*: Jennifer Saunders, for once without Dawn French, is the writer and star of this frenzied comedy about a wildly hysterical fashion PR with a mountain of hang-ups. She cannot get up in the morning, she cannot go two minutes without drink and she has a strongly lecherous daughter (Julia Sawalha) who calls her "a mad fat old cow" and means it. Saunders is supported by Joanna Lumley, as a man-chasing best friend, and Jane Horrocks, in the stereotypical role of the dumb secretary. As an attempt to mock the trendy show she has a certain satirical bite, though once the point is made it tends to be hammered relentlessly. One suspects that *Absolutely Fabulous* will appeal almost exclusively to women and fans of Jennifer Saunders. The robust language seems sure to draw angry letters from Cheltenham and Tunbridge Wells. (Celebs) (5) (8522)
9.30 *We Have Ways of Making You Think: Goebbels* — Master of Propaganda.
● *CHOICE*: A lively portrait of Hitler's propaganda minister launches a series of three documentaries about the manipulative uses of film and television. According to writer-producer Laurence Rees, Joseph Goebbels believed that the best way to sway minds was through entertainment. Few of the films made under Goebbels's regime were overtly propagandistic. Hitler favoured putting over the Nazi creed directly and crudely. His bright idea was to use the power of the cinema to seduce the masses. In a more subtle approach, suggesting the message in popular historical epics inspired by one of his favourite Hollywood films, *Gone With the Wind*. The programme also reveals how Goebbels himself departed from Nazi ideals by owning several homes, visiting night clubs and cheating on his wife, usually with glamorous film stars (74057)
10.30 *10 to 10: The Room*. A deadpan comedy that won the Best Short Film award at this year's Cannes. Film Festival (5) (861015)
10.30 *Newsnight* with Jeremy Paxman (948557)
11.15 *The Late Show*. Arts and media magazine (5) (84102)
11.55 *Later* with Joanne Hollands. Music from Nick Cave and Shane MacGowan, Dermot, John Prie and the all-woman band En Vogue (5) (125184) 12.30am *Behind the Headlines*. See 4.30pm (18481)
1.00 *Weather* (8971555) Ends at 1.10
3.00 *SBC Select: RSN Nursing Update* (64145). Ends at 4.00

- 2.20 *Frankie Robinson's Fantastic Shed Show* (999414) 2.50 *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway* (948374) 3.30 *Cinemafest* (907285) 4.00 *Cash for Cash* (904400) 4.30 *Central Jamboree* (907328)
5.00 *Granada*. As London except 1.15A Country Practice (83473) 1.45-2.15 *Home and Away* (83744) 2.15-2.30 *Home and Away* (83744) 2.30-2.45 *Home and Away* (83744) 2.45-3.00 *Home and Away* (83744) 3.00-3.15 *Home and Away* (83744) 3.15-3.30 *Home and Away* (83744) 3.30-3.45 *Home and Away* (83744) 3.45-4.00 *Home and Away* (83744) 4.00-4.15 *Home and Away* (83744) 4.15-4.30 *Home and Away* (83744) 4.30-4.45 *Home and Away* (83744) 4.45-5.00 *Home and Away* (83744) 5.00-5.15 *Home and Away* (83744) 5.15-5.30 *Home and Away* (83744) 5.30-5.45 *Home and Away* (83744) 5.45-6.00 *Home and Away* (83744) 6.00-6.15 *Home and Away* (83744) 6.15-6.30 *Home and Away* (83744) 6.30-6.45 *Home and Away* (83744) 6.45-7.00 *Home and Away* (83744) 7.00-7.15 *Home and Away* (83744) 7.15-7.30 *Home and Away* (83744) 7.30-7.45 *Home and Away* (83744) 7.45-8.00 *Home and Away* (83744) 8.00-8.15 *Home and Away* (83744) 8.15-8.30 *Home and Away* (83744) 8.30-8.45 *Home and Away* (83744) 8.45-9.00 *Home and Away* (83744) 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Chairman angry over transfer leak

Wednesday turn
down United's
£4m bid for Hirst

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MANCHESTER United have been told that David Hirst, the England striker, is not for sale, and were criticised by Sheffield Wednesday yesterday for making their enquiry public. Confirming that Wednesday had rejected their Premier League rivals' proposed deal, thought to be in the region of £4 million, David Richards, the chairman, said he was "disappointed" that details of a confidential matter had been released.

Richards said that Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had initially made contact with Trevor Francis, his opposite number at Wednesday, on Monday. "Alex Ferguson also telephoned me and suggested talks at chairman level might be useful," Richards said, "but I said that all matters relating to players were Trevor Francis's domain."

"Martin Edwards [the United chairman] then called and suggested that his club were prepared to go very high for Hirst and that other players could be involved if we were interested. My reply was short and to the point, and I'm disappointed that what I regarded as a highly confidential matter between two clubs should, 48 hours later, be the subject of press comment."

"This could be seen as an unsettling tactic, and I've asked Trevor to take David on one side and put him fully in the picture. The days are gone when so-called big clubs like Manchester United could swoop on other clubs and sign their star players."

Francis confirmed that he had since spoken to Hirst who,

he said, was happy to continue his career at Hillsborough. Hirst, 25, signed a four-year contract with Wednesday during the summer, and despite an ankle injury which has restricted his appearances this season — and also cost him his place in the England squad for their World Cup qualifying tie against Turkey next Wednesday — has managed to score nine goals in all competitions.

Edwards, meanwhile, defended his actions. "I am perplexed at what has happened and in my opinion I did nothing wrong," he said. "I have leaked nothing to the press and I am surprised how it all came out."

As Ferguson seeks to bolster an attack that had scored just 14 goals in 15 league games, he also seems likely to let Neil Webb, the England midfielder, return to Nottingham Forest. Webb is expected to have talks with Brian Clough, the Forest manager, before the

weekend after Ferguson accepted a written offer of around £800,000 for him yesterday.

Webb moved to Old Trafford from the City Ground in 1989 for £1.5 million, but has become increasingly frustrated at his failure to command a place this season. Forest are bottom of the Premier League.

David Platt will again become English football's most expensive export before the end of the season, when the value of his move to Italy will be increased to £6 million. Platt's transfer from Aston Villa to Bari 16 months ago is recorded at £5.5 million, which equals the fee Lazio paid Tottenham for Paul Gascoigne in June, but after talks with Bari officials in Birmingham yesterday, Villa are to receive another £500,000 as a result of Platt's subsequent transfer to Juventus.

The Luton Town midfielder, Chris Kamara, is to join Sheffield United on a month's loan.

Ray Lewis, the referee, has been cleared by the Football Association after being accused of swearing at a supporter during the third-round match between Barnet and Walsall last Tuesday.

A Walsall supporter alleged the Surrey official "directed a torrent of abuse" at him, but the FA said yesterday that no action would be taken against Lewis of Great Bookham. The Preston referee, Jimmy Parker, faces an FA enquiry tomorrow after West Bromwich Albion players reported him for alleged swearing.



Hirst: not for sale

Taylor's
plans
disrupted

GRAHAM Taylor, the England manager, confirmed yesterday that he expects to lose three of his original choices for the World Cup qualifying tie against Turkey at Wembley next week (Stuart Jones writes).

Paul Parker, the versatile Manchester United defender, is a likely replacement for the injured full backs, David Bardsley, of Queens Park Rangers, and Tony Dorigo, of Leeds United. The other probable casualty is David Batty, also of Leeds. Garry Parker, of Aston Villa, is his most obvious understudy.

John Salako, the Crystal Palace winger, is also doubtful with a knee injury. Replacement is unlikely to be announced until Saturday.

Ridwan Dilmun, Turkey's leading striker, will miss the match because of injury. He was not included in a 19-man squad named yesterday.

The bad feeling evident between the sides from the start may have been a residual element from the calamitous Welsh tour to Australia last year in which five of the Neath forwards took part. But any such sparks were fanned by an indeterminate display from Alain Cui, the French referee, who lost touch with the players early in the game and never regained it.



Slippery customer: Jumea shrugs off the attentions of Reynolds, his airborne pursuer, at Neath yesterday

Foul play mars Australian win

Neath..... 8
Australia XV..... 16By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Australians, rugby union world champions, have not had their troubles to seek on their tour of Ireland and Wales. Plagued by injuries, yesterday they found themselves embroiled in a bitter altercation at the Gnuil against Neath that ended with accusations of foul play from both sides which will linger for the remainder of their stay.

While the South Africans have waxed in England, Australia have waned, though not to the extent that they let slip the result, as they did a week earlier at Swansea. They won by a goal and three penalty goals to a try and a penalty, about the sole satisfaction they could derive from their afternoon's work.

The bad feeling evident between the sides from the start may have been a residual element from the calamitous Welsh tour to Australia last year in which five of the Neath forwards took part. But any such sparks were fanned by an indeterminate display from Alain Cui, the French referee, who lost touch with the players early in the game and never regained it.

Three times he lectured the captains and there were frequent appeals from the players to the Irish touch judges to intervene. Afterwards Bob Dwyer, the Australian coach whose blunt speaking has been a feature of their tour — notably in Munster after another ill-tempered game — accused Neath players of spitting at his team.

"Neath must be the bag-snatching capital of Wales," he said, using an Australian euphemism for grabbing opponents by the testicles, which Dwyer said had happened at least five times to his players.

Gareth Llewellyn, the Neath captain, said he was unaware of such incidents and added: "The Australians were no angels. Brian Williams had his head stamped on and all we did was meet fire with fire. I was a bit disappointed with them, they are such a professional outfit, but all they did was whinge when a decision went against them."

The match, if such it could be called, reflected little credit on anybody. If the referee had taken firm action early it might have limited some of the damage, but amid a welter of infringements it was hard to distinguish the worst offenders.

Of constructive rugby there was little, which offered no help in solving Australia's

midfield problems or those of Wales at the lineout.

Though Dwyer praised Wallace's tactical kicking from stand-off half it is hard to imagine him playing in the international on November 21, while the Welsh selectors, desperately seeking a more productive pair of locks, saw Gareth Llewellyn outmanoeuvred by Eales and McCall, who were able to give their side a match-winning advantage.

Had Neath chosen to open the game more they might have used Isaac and Reynolds to better advantage. But they kicked for position, almost exclusively and then relied upon spoiling tactics to break up an Australian side short on rhythm and confidence. For their part, the touring team were totally unable to clear the ball from the set pieces and give their midfield players time or space; it was greatly to Jumea's credit that, from unpromising beginnings, he slipped two tackles and launched Little for the line.

That try restored Australia's slender advantage. Kelaher's slender advantage. Kelaher's early penalty was overtaken when Gareth Llewellyn took a lineout and Brian Williams, in his 200th game for Neath, was driven over the line. For a brief period, and again in the second half when Thurburn's

penalty brought the Welsh club to within two points, it seemed possible that Neath would end their record of never having overcome, in any guise, a major touring side.

But arid mutual recriminations Kelaher kicked the penalties which put the Australians just out of reach. "It was very frustrating," Slattery, their captain, said. "I don't think the referee really knew what was going on, but I'm pleased we rallied so well."

Sadly, the match will only serve to heighten tension in the remaining fixtures unless Llewellyn on Saturday can wipe away with some running rugby the bitterness left at what is known these days, despite the events of this match, as the Courage Gnoll.

SOONERS: Neath: T. B. Williams, P. Slattery, Thurburn, Australia: T. Little, C. Williams, K. Phillips, J. Daniels, S. Slattery, G. Llewellyn, G. Williams, G. Phillips, M. Morris, A. Kemmy.

NEATH: P. Slattery, S. Slattery, L. Slattery, B. Slattery, M. Slattery, R. Slattery, J. Slattery, G. Slattery, M. Slattery, A. Slattery.

Referee: A. Cui (France).

S Africa
retain
winning
line-up

By DAVID HANDS

THE South African side that beat England B in Bristol last week has been given the chance to add England A to its laurels. The same XV was named yesterday to play at Twickenham on Saturday in the final match of their tour of France and England.

The South African team shows four changes of personnel and a significant positional switch from the team beaten by France in Paris last month.

Thes van Rensburg, who made such an exciting international debut against New Zealand in August, is restored as full back. In the pack, Heath Andrews wins his first cap at right-hand prop, as does Frederick Smit at flanker, while Drikakis Harting comes into the second row. Smit joined the party at the end of the French leg.

The South Africans will stick to their policy of playing left and right flankers rather than open and blind, but have moved Adrian Richter to No. 8 and Tiaan Strauss to the flank, a combination which has worked well in England.

The South African management was disappointed with the decision-making of the backs who played in the 19-3 win over the Northern Division at Leeds on Tuesday evening, and has therefore left a settled back division alone, save for the replacement at full back of Hugh Reece-Edwards.

Reece-Edwards, who played well on Tuesday as well as kicking all his goals, is a strong player, but van Rensburg is an outstanding attacker who may help to bring out the best in two aggressive and speedy wings.

SOUTH AFRICA: Tiaan Strauss, Drikakis Harting, J. van Rensburg, H. Reece-Edwards, F. Smit, D. Harting, A. Richter, G. Phillips, M. Morris, A. Kemmy, J. Slattery, G. Williams, G. Phillips, M. Morris, A. Kemmy.

Transvaal
set out
for Britain

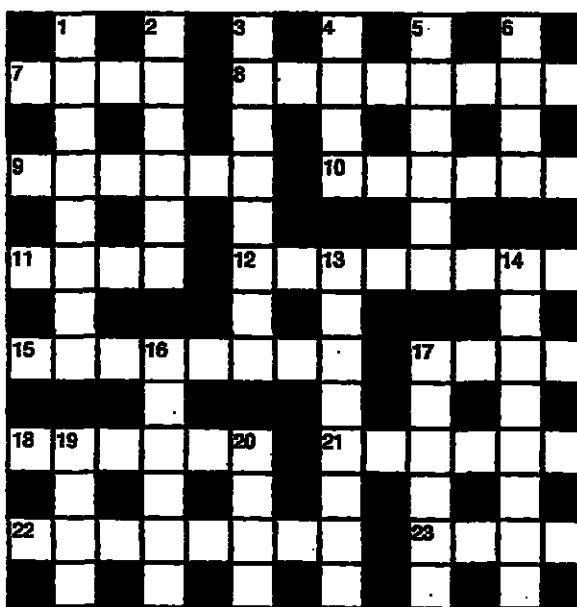
Johannesburg: Transvaal, the leading provincial rugby union team in South Africa, left here yesterday for a four-match tour of Britain despite calls by local anti-apartheid sports bodies for them to call it off.

"It is too late to do anything now and we are carrying on as planned," Johan Prinsloo, the general manager of the Transvaal Rugby Football Union, said.

Two weeks ago, the powerful National Olympic Sports Congress announced it was withdrawing support for future rugby tours until priority was given to developing the game in the country's underprivileged black townships.

Transvaal start the tour at Gloucester tomorrow. (Reuters)

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2943



- ACROSS
- Before long (4)
 - Overnight (5)
 - Popular Japanese theatre (6)
 - Full (6)
 - Sort (4)
 - Misfortune (4-4)
 - Weaker party (5)
 - Failure (4)
 - Backhanders (6)
 - Sagging (6)
 - Circle quarter (3)
 - Strip (4)
- DOWN
- Alteration (8)
 - Abusive term (6)
 - Enhanced (8)
 - Bankrupt (4)
 - Saddle front (6)
 - Sadate (4)
 - Stiffness (8)
 - Gaming dealer (8)
 - Symmetrical (6)
 - Limp (6)
 - Rake (4)
 - Slaughter (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2942

ACROSS: 1 Facia 4 Shimmer 5 First hand 9 TGV 10 Yon 11 Chrysalis 12 Burn 13 Robid 16 Sink bomb 18 Gas 20 Mai 21 Inhibited 22 Nowhere 23 Ended

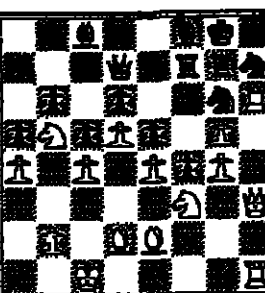
DOWN: 1 Fifty 2 Corner 3 Anti clockwise 4 Stairs 5 Indescribable 6 Metal 7 Revised 12 Bustupian 14 Bigoted 15 Bohem 17 In tow 19 Slided

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Spassky — Fischer, Belgrade (Game 12) 1992. White has slowly driven the black pieces into completely passive positions and now finds the decisive finishing touch. What did he play?

Solution below.



White: black is completely tied up and 1. Qh5! costs him a piece. If the knight moves then 2. g6!

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, write to: PCG, telephone Alton Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hours) or call CDS Doncaster on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

A historic day for Henry the first

Richard Streeton meets a player whose Test
debut tomorrow will ensure him of a
place in the annals of South African cricket

club teams and eventually into the first-class game. There were occasions in that era when Henry would be unable to join team-mates for a drink in a whites only bar or to swim with them on a restricted beach. It was ironic, though, that the most painful slights he incurred came from



Henry: still guarded

the Coloureds and blacks with whom he formerly played. "It remains the worst thing that has happened to me in my life," he said.

Henry is keeping the full story for a book later this year, but he was disciplined by the then Coloured board for casually stopping to watch a whites only match and ostracised by former friends as his cricket developed in its new white environment and was often called a Nazi or an Uncle Tom. The rift has been healed since, but the mental scars remain.

Henry was one of seven children born in a one-roomed house to a Stellenbosch bookbinder, whose own passion was rugby union. His first cricket was played barefooted in the streets with makeshift implements. "We were not really poor in the sense that we always had food and shelter," he said. "My

parents encouraged us to accept that you had to work hard at whatever you did in life and then you would make progress."

"This Test match fulfils an ambition for me that I never thought would be possible in my time. It is important, too, for others. Non-whites need heroes with whom they can identify."

After playing for South Africa in the World Cup and touring West Indies earlier this year, Henry ended ten years as a professional in Scotland in September and from now on will stay permanently in his home country to help with the united board's development programme.

"It is time to put something back," he said. "We must sort out the talent and make sure it is helped. Do not forget the players have always been there in the non-white communities. From what I have heard there were people in the past even better than D'Oliveira, but until now they have never had a proper chance."

Positive Zimbabwe, page 46

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